

Hafa Adai!

Okinawans make annual memorial trip to Marianas. **PAGE 3**
MHS student barges into final round of nat'l essay tilt. **PAGE 7**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 114

www.saipantribune.com

FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2023

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

WITH NEW BUSAN-SAIPAN ROUTE

Jeju Air expands service

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jezu Air executives have announced the expansion of its current service to Saipan during a meeting with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Marianas Visitors Authority officials in Seoul, Korea this week.

Palacios said yesterday that they are thankful to Jeju Air for expanding its service to Saipan.

See JEJU on Page 4

Jeju Air chief executive officer E-Bae Kim announced that Jeju Air is adding a new, direct passenger air service between Busan, South Korea, and Saipan during a meeting with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, who is in Seoul this week with MVA acting chairperson Gloria Cavanagh and MVA managing director Chris Concepcion.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



SMA wants gov't to intervene in dispute with CPA

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Star Marianas Airlines has asked Gov. Arnold I. Palacios to intervene in its ongoing dispute with the Commonwealth Ports Authority regarding airport usage fees.

SMA president Shaun Christian wrote Palacios last Tuesday, stating that government's intervention is needed in their dispute with CPA, as SMA believes that CPA's actions in this matter are "unprofessional, vindictive, and counterproductive" to its mandate of developing the ports to

See SMA on Page 4

'Touchback rule will impact our capacity to complete federally funded projects'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Labor Secretary Leila Staffler echoed

the sentiment of Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) Wednesday about the impact of the touchback rule on

See TOUCHBACK on Page 4

Kilili, Radewagen co-chair task force created to combat rising China influence

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources announced yesterday the formation of a bipartisan task force that will combat

the rising influence of the People's Republic of China in the U.S. territories and Freely Associated States in the Indo-Pacific region, with both Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) and Rep. Amata Radewagen (R-American Samoa), who co-chairs with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) the newly formed Indo-Pacific Task Force, reads her statement during a press conference yesterday at the House Triangle in Washington, D.C. Also in the photo are Sablan, fourth from left, and members of the House Committee on Natural Resources.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Days until 'touchback rule' takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

113

INSIDE



SUPPLEMENT

Today's issue comes with a supplement that celebrates Mount Carmel School's 70th anniversary.

PAGE 13



BUSINESS

McDonald's of Saipan congratulates the Crew of the 1st Quarter 2023.

PAGE 29



ASIA

A Philippine court has rejected a request for bail by a former opposition senator and justice secretary.

PAGE 31



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

TRIPLE J SAYS **YES!** **EASY FINANCING? YES! EASY TRADE-IN? YES! FAST & FRIENDLY? YES!**

USED CAR PRICE, NEW CAR CONFIDENCE

2017 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE
STK: 22H313A
SALE PRICE **\$9,995** **\$94 PER PAYCHECK**

2016 TOYOTA COROLLA LE
STK: 18P345B
SALE PRICE **\$9,995** **\$94 PER PAYCHECK**

2004 NISSAN TITAN SE
STK: 23D024B
SALE PRICE **\$9,995** **\$94 PER PAYCHECK**

2017 MAZDA3
STK: 22M028E
SALE PRICE **\$12,995** **\$96 PER PAYCHECK**

2019 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE
STK: 23HS013 **SOLD**
SALE PRICE **\$17,995** **\$168 PER PAYCHECK**

2019 MAZDA CX-9
STK: 23HZ002
SALE PRICE **\$18,995** **\$121 PER PAYCHECK**

2016 TOYOTA PRIUS
STK: 22M257A
SALE PRICE **\$13,995** **\$124 PER PAYCHECK**

2018 NISSAN ROGUE
STK: 18P393
SALE PRICE **\$17,995** **\$133 PER PAYCHECK**

2017 FORD MUSTANG
STK: 17HS1036
SALE PRICE **\$19,995** **\$147 PER PAYCHECK**

2017 HYUNDAI TUCSON
STK: 23D066A
SALE PRICE **\$13,995** **\$103 PER PAYCHECK**

2016 BUICK VERANO
STK: 17P505
SALE PRICE **\$17,995** **\$151 PER PAYCHECK**

2018 TOYOTA COROLLA iM
STK: 18P481 **SOLD**
SALE PRICE **\$19,995** **\$147 PER PAYCHECK**

2017 TOYOTA COROLLA
STK: 17P370
SALE PRICE **\$16,995** **\$125 PER PAYCHECK**

2015 HYUNDAI GENESIS G80
AWD - STK: 22M075A
SALE PRICE **\$17,995** **\$206 PER PAYCHECK**

2016 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER
STK: 22H219A
SALE PRICE **\$19,995** **\$178 PER PAYCHECK**

2018 MAZDA CX-5
STK: 23HZ001
SALE PRICE **\$16,995** **\$125 PER PAYCHECK**

2016 HONDA CIVIC
STK: 21H068A
SALE PRICE **\$18,995** **\$169 PER PAYCHECK**

2019 HYUNDAI TUCSON
STK: 22H161A
SALE PRICE **\$19,995** **\$127 PER PAYCHECK**

Customers First **TRIPLE J MOTORS**
MON-FRI: 8AM TO 6PM • SAT: 8AM TO 5PM
BEACH ROAD, CHALAN LAULAU
TEL: (670)234-7133/234-3051
WWW.TRIPLEJSAIPAN.COM

Like us on facebook
Triple J Motors, Saipan

*On Approved Credit (OAC). Some Conditions Apply. Doc Fees and Registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details.

Trial for both Camacho and co-defendant is vacated

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The bench trial for the pending criminal case against Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan) and his co-defendant that was originally set for July has been vacated at the request of one of the defendants.

The parties in this case went before Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo yesterday for a pre-trial conference, during which it was learned that one of the defendants in the case, Tiepo A. Nikiti, is in Guam to escort his mother, who is on medical referral and will possibly be leaving for the U.S. mainland for more treatment. It was Nikiti has requested to vacate the trial set for July 17.

The CNMI government was represented by Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds while Camacho appeared with his counsel, Michael A. White. Nikiti did not appear but was represented by his court appointed counsel, assistant public defender Emily Thomsen.

The government also updated the court on the status of the victim, who is also ill, and that it is still moving forward with the trial without the victim.

Based on the information brought in court yesterday, Govendo vacated the bench trial scheduled for July 17, and set a status conference the same day at 9am.

At this hearing, the court ordered that an update on the status of Nikiti's mother's medical referral be given and the court will also hear Camacho's request for a speedy trial.

Camacho, 60, and Nikiti face charges for allegedly assaulting Commonwealth Ports Authority master electrician Steven Koch while he was on a walk with his daughter on the evening of Oct. 29, near their home in China Town. Camacho is out on bail.

Due to the alleged assault, Koch reportedly suffered abrasions, bruising, and pain in his head and body from the blows, and was taken to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

The assault incident is believed to have stemmed from a longstanding animosity between Koch and his brother-in-law, Concepcion.



Camacho

Okinawans make annual memorial trip to Marianas

A delegation of the Micronesian Repatriation Association of Okinawa made their annual pilgrimage to Saipan and Tinian this month to conduct memorial services.

This month's visit marks the 52nd annual memorial of group to the Marianas, with 37 members participating in prayer services in Tinian last June 3 and at the Tower of Okinawa memorial on Saipan on June 4. The prayer services commemorate Okinawans who lost their lives in the islands during World War II.

The group also paid courtesy calls last June 2 to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho, the Consulate Office of Japan on Saipan, and the Marianas Visitors Authority. That evening, they were hosted at a welcoming dinner reception at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan, where they met longtime friends and associates from the Marianas and enjoyed local food and entertainment. Camacho also presented a plaque of appreciation to the repatriation association and International Travel Services for their dedication over the years.

"It is an honor to have welcomed the Micronesia Repatriation Association of Okinawa back to the Marianas for their annual prayer services," said MVA acting manag-



Delegates of the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly of the Micronesian Repatriation Association of Okinawa conduct a memorial service on June 4, 2023, on Saipan commemorating Okinawans who lost their lives during World War II.

ing director Judy C. Torres. "We are grateful for both the older generation who have the connection of living [on] Saipan and Tinian when they were young, as well as the younger generation who are interested in keeping this historic connection."

Various government agencies collaborated to support the group's annual pilgrimage. The

MVA cleaned and painted the Okinawan Memorial Monument at Suicide Cliff on Tinian, while the Tinian Mayor's

Office, Department of Lands & Natural Resources, and Department of Public Works also helped prepare Ginoza Caves

and other historical sites visited. On Saipan, the MVA provided tents, tables, and chairs at the ceremony site, which was cleaned and prepared by the Division of Parks & Recreation.

The group was accompanied throughout their tour by Masanori Takahashi, president of Ja-

pan Saipan Travel Association. Tour organizers reported an additional 13 people scheduled to make the pilgrimage were unable to attend due to Typhoon Mawar, which forced an early departure from Okinawa. The group returned to Japan on June 5, 2023. (MVA)



THE GOAL MUST BE
ZERO
ACCIDENTS

LP GAS WUSHIN
Since 1983 Committed to Safety Excellence

For your LPGas needs, please call 322-7415 or 322-8733
Open from 8:00am - 5:00pm Monday to Friday | 8:00am - 2:00pm Saturday

ARMATECH



**Elevator,
Escalator, Lift
Installer and
Repairer**

Tel: (670) 234-8895 | Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895



GUAM & COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WEBEX MEETING JUNE 13, 2023

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Honolulu Regional Office - Public Contact Team

Will host a Virtual Benefits Workshop for Veterans, Family Members, Surviving Spouses, and Community Providers

on
TUESDAY JUNE 13, 2023

From
4PM-6PM (GUAM & CNMI LOCAL TIME)

To participate please join us in Cisco Webex by clicking or copying and pasting the below links into your browser:

<https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=me394cf852e0b99e07d8ac565f970b089>

You can join via Computer, Phone Audio (1-404-397-1596, Access Code: 27659765283##), or Webex Mobile App. Meeting Password: G6GmP35cpV@



Benefits Workshop Topics:
Compensation, Service Connection, Pension, COD, MST, Women Veterans, Education & Training, Veteran Readiness & Employment, PACT Act, Home Loan Guaranty, DIC, Survivors' Pension, & Burial and Plot Internment Allowance

HANA
HEALTH MASSAGE

SERVICES OFFERED

- Body Oil Massage
- Foot Massage
- Cupping Therapy (Suction cup massage for back pain)
- Sauna (\$25 for 2 person)

-NEW! Table Shower and Body Scrub Spa - Soon in San Antonio Location

SPECIAL PROMO
60 minutes Body (Oil) Massage \$20

Locations:

- MSV Building, Chalan Kanoa across Moonlight
- NEW location** → San Antonio, across Afetna Super Market

10:00AM TO 12:00AM • Call HANA: 789-7778
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS

Toys & Clothes
for children
ages 0 to 10

Enjoy our Summer Sale
15% off
on selected clothing



LOLLIPOPS

BEACH RD., GARAPAN
Monday - Saturday: 9am - 6pm
Sunday: 10am - 4pm
TEL. 234-8040

Like us on Facebook

a boutique for
Tween girls
ages 8-12

Dresses, Tees,
skirts, jeans, shorts,
and Accessories!

We have moved! Now open at
Town House in Chalan Kanoa!



Girl Talk

TownHouse in Chalan Kanoa
Mon-Fri: 11am to 5pm | Sat: 10am to 5pm.
Closed on Sunday
TEL. 233-8050

Like us on Facebook

Man granted parole now up for deportation

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Parole granted the parole application of a convicted burglar last week and is now set

to surrender him to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for deportation.

The CNMI Board of Parole heard the parole applications of Steven Hasugulgam, Titomir K. Bhuiyan, and

Bradley Defang last Friday and denied the parole applications for both Bhuiyan and Defang but granted parole for Hasugulgam, who is serving a 10-year sentence for eight counts of burglary in different cases.

SMA

From Page 1

their fullest potential.

“We believe that your administration’s involvement can help resolve the sustainability issues surrounding interisland flights and prevent another transportation crisis,” said Christian.

When sought for comments, CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said that SMA is entitled to its opinion, but they are not facts.

“SMA is entitled to their opinion

but they are not entitled to their own facts. The history of this dispute is well-documented and reported by the media multiple times. This matter has been in front of the federal District Court and reviewed by the [Federal Aviation Administration] where none of the claims they are alleging has been found to be true. That is a fact. What’s also a fact is that they owe millions. This matter is now before the Superior Court,” she said.

In addition, King-Hinds said SMA can continue to take shots at her as CPA’s board chair and she will gladly take all the punches in this matter.

“If this is to personally malign me, as I am directly referenced as board chair, take your best shot. Because if this is the blowback that I have to keep dealing with for doing what’s right for the people of Tinian, and most especially my brothers and sisters on Rota who are suffering the most, I’ll take all the punches,” she said.

SMA, in its letter, accused King-Hinds of actively seeking to drive SMA out of business in the CNMI.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

JEJU

From Page 1

ing its service to Saipan to include the Busan to Saipan route.

“We will continue to partner with Jeju Air and other airline partners to continue to grow and expand the Korea tourism market,” said the governor in a statement.

Saipan Tribune learned that Palacios left Sunday for Seoul with MVA acting board chair Gloria Cavanagh and MVA managing director Chris Concepcion to meet with government and CNMI’s airline and tour partners as part of the Commonwealth’s efforts to expand the tourism market.

The governor is expected to return

today, Friday.

According to the Office of the Governor yesterday, Jeju Air chief executive officer E-Bae Kim announced that they will add a daily direct passenger flight between Busan, South Korea, and Saipan. The new route will begin on July 19, 2023, and is already on sale on the Jeju Air website.

Kim said the Northern Mariana Islands is one of the top destination markets for Koreans, and this additional route will help meet the growing demand.

“We are looking at other ways we can increase seats and flight service to the CNMI and we thank Gov. Palacios for his friendship and partnership,” Kim said.

Jeju Air already flies two flights per day every day between Saipan and Seoul. The airline currently provides the highest seat supply from Korea to the CNMI.

Busan, South Korea’s second most populous city after Seoul, is a metropolitan city located at the south-east tip of the Korean peninsula. It is a large city known for its beaches, mountains, and temples.

The Office of the Governor said the Busan route will be evaluated to determine whether it will be sustained for a longer period.

Jeju Air also announced the addition of a third daily flight between Saipan and Seoul that will be in service for a one-month period, June 29 to July 19, 2023.

TOUCHBACK

From Page 1

the CNMI’s capacity to complete by the deadline many federally funded projects, considering that the Commonwealth does not have enough construction workers.

With the data that they have, Staffler said they know that if they take every single graduate from every single program in any entity on the islands, the CNMI still would not be able to meet the gap that losing all foreign workers would create.

“We need more workers here present, whatever they are, in order to be able to meet all of the deadlines and be able to spend all of the money is given to us for these projects,” said Staffler during the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee’s 2024 budget hearing for Labor.

Staffler discussed the touchback rule in response to Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ralph N. Yumul’s (Ind-Saipan) request for an update on the matter.

Touchback refers to the requirement for foreign workers to leave the CNMI before their work visas could be renewed for a third consecutive time. That departure requirement also means they will have to stay away until a new permit is approved, which could take months.

Staffler said they are often asked how many employers will be affected by this and what dates are

they affected, but these are the kinds of data they don’t have access to because U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services does not share that with them directly.

She said she made a request through their Freedom of Information process online, and that she’s at about No. 222, so she is still waiting to hear back from them.

The secretary said she also reached out to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) and has been working with Sablan’s team to make a connection with USCIS to be able to get that information more readily.

Staffler said she did create a survey that she just launched that Wednesday at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting to get more information from private businesses on how many employees are affected, what their positions are, and what months are they scheduled to have to leave.

Staffler said the touchback requirement is beyond the CNMI’s control as the only entity that could change that requirement is the U.S. Congress. “It does not look very likely that that is a requirement that will change,” she said.

The secretary said the Labor survey will give them a bigger picture of when the majority of CW employees will be leaving.

She said they are planning, among other things, to have a job fair to help give employers a place to help search for possible employment opportunities.

In reference to the infrastructure grants given to the CNMI, with a lot of these grants that the CNMI are getting—whether it be Federal Emergency Management Agency, or Economic Development Administration, or even Community Development Block Grant monies—the CNMI has a deadline and unfortunately, the Commonwealth does not have the manpower to be able to meet the deadlines, Attao said.

“That’s even if at this point, if they give us another three years, we probably wouldn’t be able to meet the deadline, because we don’t have the manpower,” Attao pointed out.

With this touchback, Attao said, when affected workers go to U.S. embassies to fix their papers, instead of being there for a month, they’re there for like four to six months because their papers aren’t being processed.

“And that really chokes us over here because we don’t have the ability locally to finish these projects,” he said.

Staffler said she did submit last Friday a CW plan on behalf of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and in the plan she did include language that expressed the amount of projects that the CNMI has ahead and the amount of money for each project and the fact that most of those are federally funded.

She said she did include that the timelines for these projects are dwindling and that fact that the CNMI does not have enough construction workers to do those jobs.

Bhuiyan is serving 16 years for kidnapping, conspiracy, aggravated assault and battery, theft of vehicle, and disturbing the peace. Defang, on the other hand, is serving five years for robbery.

In an interview with chief parole officer Nick Reyes, he said his office will surrender Hasugulgam to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for deportation as soon as he gets a plane ticket.

“As of now, he will remain detained until such time when he is given a plane ticket,” he said.

Acting Parole board chair Lucinda Selepeo explained that it was a no-brainer to grant parole for Hasugulgam because part of his application was for him to be deported. The board unanimously agreed to grant Hasugulgam parole so he can be sent home.

Both declined to release information where Hasugulgam will be deported to.

Selepeo said that Bhuiyan and Defang’s applications were a different story.

For the two men’s application, she said, the six board members’ votes came to a tie, which automatically

means denial of the application.

Board member Francine Nekai also shared her reasoning behind her vote, stating that everyone deserves a second chance.

Newly appointed board member Anthony Macaranas, a retired police officer, shared a different point of view.

He said that, as an officer, he rarely considers those he has put behind bars. However, in his new role as a Parole Board member, he is forced to think about the incarcerated individual and determine whether they have really changed. That was a factor that determined his decision to grant Hasugulgam bail and vote in favor of granting parole for the other two applicants.

“Granting parole is also an opportunity for the inmate to go out there and improve his or her life, instead of staying in the institution just doing nothing. Out there they can find a way how to live to be a model citizen. The other thing, too, is when we give them the opportunity, they can go to school, find a job, help their family—those are some of the things they need to do to help themselves,” he said.

Karidat’s CK office closed for now

The Karidat Social Services office in Chalan Kanoa will be closed starting June 12, 2023, until further notice. Stay tuned for information about the Karidat

Thrift Shop Summer Clearance Sale.

Karidat would like to thank you for your understanding as we go through this relocation process. (PR)

KILILI

From Page 1

wagen (R-American Samoa) being named co-chairs of the task force.

Speaking at a press conference at the House Triangle in Washington, D.C., House Committee on Natural Resources chair Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) said this Indo-Pacific Task Force will begin regular meetings to conduct oversight on issues facing the U.S. territories and Freely Associated States and provide policy recommendations on actions the full committee can take to advance U.S. interest in the region and push back on the PRC influence throughout the Pacific.

“Our committee has jurisdiction over U.S. territories. I’ve learned so much from members representing these islands over the years,” Westerman said.

He said both Sablan and Radewagen are no strangers to Chinese aggression in their waters.

“There is perhaps no greater threat to America’s national security and future prosperity than the continued growth of the People’s Republic of China and its influence on the world stage,” said Westerman in a press statement.

He said the PRC has built a strategy to dominate the island nations and U.S. territories in the Pacific as a platform for the projection of its power.

“This strategy is a direct threat to our influence and economic interests in the region,” said Westerman, adding that creating this task force in an essential step in understanding all the issues at play so they can better curtail the Chinese government’s growing influence and strengthen and maintain America’s relationship with

the Freely Associated States.

Freely Associated States refer to the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia. The three U.S. territories in the Pacific are the CNMI, Guam, and American Samoa.

Sablan thanked Westerman and House Committee on Natural Resources ranking member Raul M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) for deciding to create this task force.

“We need to prepare ourselves,” Sablan said.




Grijalva thanked Sablan, Radewagen, and Westerman for their bipartisan efforts in leading this task force that, he said, seeks meaningful solutions that fulfill their obligations while continuing to build relationships with the Pacific territories and FAS.

Grijalva said the U.S. relationship with the U.S. territories and FAS in the Indo-Pacific region are critical to national security, especially as the U.S. faces mounting encroachment and aggression by the People’s Republic of China.

“But we cannot forget that the value of our relationship with these important allies comes with the responsibility to support their economic development,” Grijalva said.

Radewagen said she is honored to co-chair this task force with Sablan and that the task force has assembled an impressive spectrum of members of Congress, an equally balanced 14-member group, with perspective from their various committees, adding expertise to all sides of examining the influence of China in the Pacific.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

AREA RUGS  25% off	AIR SOFT PISTOLS & RIFLES  25% off	BATH TOWELS & KITCHEN TOWELS  25% off	BICYCLES, TRICYCLES & SCOOTERS  25% off	BOYS SHIRTS & SHORTS  25% off	
ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES  25% off	ELECTRONICS  25% off	GIRLS DRESSES & SETS  25% off	HANDBAGS & WALLET  25% off	LADIES DRESSES, BLOUSES & SHORTS  25% off	
MENS SHIRTS & SLACKS  25% off	PARTY SUPPLIES  25% off	PLASTIC HOUSEWARES  25% off	SHOWER CURTAINS  25% off	SHOES & SANDALS  25% off	TOYS & GAMES  25% off



JOETEN 2-DAY EARLY BIRD SALE

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 10 & 11, 2023

US CHICKEN THIGH QUARTERS 22 LBS  \$13⁹⁹/cs.	US WHOLE CHICKEN FRYERS  \$1⁷⁴/lb.	NEW ZEALAND BEEF SHOULDER STEAK FAMILY BAG 5 LBS  \$19⁹⁹	US PORK BELLY FAMILY BAG 6 LBS  \$19⁹⁹	US PORK CHOP FAMILY BAG 7 LBS  \$15⁹⁹
ACE OF DIAMONDS TUNA 7oz  \$1⁷⁹ ea.	DIAMOND G CALROSE RICE 50 LBS  \$45⁹⁹	SUMIRE CALROSE RICE 44 LBS  \$23⁹⁹	AUSTRALIA'S OWN LOW FAT MILK 1 LTR  2 for \$3	JOETEN BUTANE GAS 4pk  \$23⁹⁹/cs.

GROCERY/MARKET ITEMS

U.S. EGGS X-LARGE WH 10Z  \$3⁵⁹	U.S. BROCCOLI CROWNS /LB  \$2³⁹/lb.	U.S. MANGO /LB  \$1⁹⁹/lb.	U.S. APPLE FUJI WASH /LB  \$1⁶⁹/lb.	U.S. ORANGE CHOICE/ FANCY  \$1⁶⁹/lb.	U.S. CANTALOUPE MELON / LB  \$1³⁹/lb.	U.S. POTATO RUSSETT/ IDAHO (S)  \$1¹⁹/lb.	U.S. NZ ONION YELLOW  99¢/lb.
BEEF CH T-BONE STEAK / LB  \$13⁴⁹/lb.	BEEF CH BOTTOM ROUND STEAK  \$5³⁹/lb.	US CH EYEROUND STEAK THICK SLCD  \$6²⁹/lb.	BEEF CH FLANK STEAK  \$12⁵⁹/lb.	CLIF BUILDER'S CHOCOLATE MINT PROTEIN BAR 2.4oz  \$1⁹⁹	BUDGET SAVER LEMON LIME MONSTER POPS 3  \$3⁹⁹	JINRO CHAMISUL PLUM SOJU 360ml  \$3⁰⁹	

Joeten Shopping Center

DISCLAIMER:

Although Joeten strives to ensure that all pricing information on this ad is accurate, occasionally an error may occur and goods may be mispriced. We reserve the right to correct all typographical and pictorial errors.

P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. 234-6446/48 • Fax. 234-5876
Visit our 4-Branches: Joeten Susupe, Garapan, Dandan and Kagman



WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS.
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES



Never satisfied until you are

NEW ARRIVAL

G24 & G26 G.I. ROOFING TIN
SECURITY DOOR, G.I. PIPES,
G.I. SQUARE TUBE,
G.I. C CHANNEL & Z CHANNEL,
2x4 RECTANGULAR TUBE,
SHORING JACK, OFFICE TABLE
AND CHAIR, US MADE WATER
HEATER, TEMPERED GLASS
ALUMINUM SLIDING WINDOW.

NEW ARRIVAL Furniture



*Make a Difference
for Your House!*



NEW ARRIVALS! CARPOLY PAINT

It's the suitable paint for the island climate.
Make your paint last for a long time!



1 FREE T-shirt with one time
purchase of two buckets of

CARPOLY
Professional Paint Solution Provider

First Come First Served,
While Stocks Last

LED LIGHTS

- Less money, 50% energy saving!
- More stable, bright, and fashionable!
- More longer and environmental protection!

Your Smart Choice!

G60 Rebar is Available Now!

**CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR
CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!**

P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488

E-mail: guangdong_hardware@163.com

BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Castro concerned with condition of docs, facility at Land Registration

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Manny Gregory T. Castro (Ind-Saipan) expressed concern yesterday over the condition of some of the documents and the facility at the Division of Land Registration and Survey of the Department of Lands and Natu-

ral Resources.

Speaking at the House Ways and Means Committee hearing for the DLNR 2024 budget, Castro said he has visited DLNR several times and believes the land registration facility needs upgrading.



Castro

"Those are millions, even billions, of dollars of assets and records that need to be preserved because those are people's lives. And sometimes, the security is not up to par in comparison to the court," he said.

Even the loss of just one

document can be a big loss to not only the government but families, he said. "So I hope the administration puts some emphasis on investing in that unit because it's really important," Castro said.

DLNR Secretary Sylvan Igisomar said they recognize the importance of these docu-

ments and had just applied for several federal grants for Lands and Survey.

"We're trying to reach out and we understand again the limitation of our own economic situation, so we're trying to be as creative as possible and not be too dependent on the local economy," Igisomar said.



Saipan Southern High School's Class of 2023 Top 10.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Reyes and Lansangan lead SHSS Class of 2023

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A total of 133 students of Saipan Southern High School's Class of 2023 officially ended the last chapter of high school when they received their diplomas last Tuesday at the school's location in Koblerville.

Leading their entire class was valedictorian Jessie Lynn Reyes and salutatorian Aisha Erica Lansangan, who both thanked their friends, family, class, and school staff for their support. Lansangan, who is also an early graduate, encouraged those who aspire to

graduate early that they could do it as well.

For the awards, Reyes was awarded the Board of Education Award, as well as the Governor's Leadership Award. The Commissioners Award was given to Lansangan, the Lt. Governor's Leadership Award went to Adrian Jay Manalang, and Jasmine Jaylyn John was the recipient of the Principal's Award. Manalang and John were also among the Top 10; with Manalang at Top 5, and John Top 3.

This year, 11 individuals were awarded the Top 10 awards, since two students tied for Top 9, and there was

also an honorable mention awardee recognized with the Top 10. The Top 10 awardees from first to tenth were Reyes, Lansangan, Jasmine Jaylyn John, Marion John Sayas, Adrian Jay Manalang, Leeza Marie Ngitiyeb, Michael Jermain Junya Peters, Andrea Rose Ramos; Dianna Marie Catigan and Alpha Joyce Sagun, who tied in Top 9; and Alyssa Rae David came in at 10. The honorable mention awardee was Andrew Bailey Sunderland.

SHSS Physical Education teacher Michael Mercado, who was the keynote speaker, shared moments from his own educational and experiences, noting that experience was the best teacher in life. Mercado told the graduates that the measure of their successes would not be based on the number of good grades or awards they received, but rather on the positive impact they leave on the world.

"You are the leaders of tomorrow, and the world needs you. It needs your ideas, your passion, and your energy. It needs your creativity and your innovation. It needs your commitment to making a difference. So go out there, make the most of you education, your experiences, and your talents. Use them to make the world a better place," he said.

Mercado encouraged the graduates to continue to learn, grow and pursue their dreams, but also never forget the people who helped them get to where they are now. "We are rooting for you all the way. ... The world is waiting for you, Mantas. Wherever you will go, go with all your heart and make a difference!"



CEDA

COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
www.developcnmi.com



PUBLIC NOTICE

Friday, June 9, 2023

Through its Board of Directors, the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA), grants a three-month (90-day) automatic loan payment deferral for all **ROTA CEDA LOAN CLIENTS/BUSINESS OWNERS** from June 2023 to August 31, 2023.

Three-month (90-day) Loan Deferral Details:

- The deferred loan payments are added to the end of the loan.
- Customers need to remember that, eventually, they must make those payments.
- Restart your loan payments, on or by the due date, in the month of September 2023.
- Interest will accrue during the three-month loan payment deferral period (Loan interest rates range from a low of 2% to a max of 9%—with rates averaging 7%).
- The loan deferral period will not cure any delinquent past-due amounts.
- No action is required by borrowers to defer their loan payments, except, for those borrowers with scheduled automatic monthly loan payments (via debit/credit card), please contact us to temporarily cease those payments for all or part of the deferral.

Here's our contact info:

CEDA Loan Team

Abby Atalig a.atalig@developcnmi.com (670) 234-6245 ext. 309
Fred Cruz f.cruz@developcnmi.com ext. 305
Marie Coleman m.coleman@developcnmi.com ext. 307

Rota office

Elaine M. Manglona e.manglona@developcnmi.com (670) 532-9408

Or please visit us at the CEDA Building, room 103 (ground floor), located on San Jose Beach Road (across from The Shack & Oleai Beach Bar & Grill).

Please contact us at the above if we may be of further assistance.

/s/ **Manuel A. Sablan**
CEDA Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY



MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.

PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950

PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962

E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM • WEBSITE: HTTPS://WWW.CNMPORTS.COM



AMENDED #2 REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport

"Retail Concession"

CPA-RFP-005-23

for:

CPA Concession No. RCA-2022-01

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide retail services to the travelling public at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport ("Retail Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide retail services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of Three (3) years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-005-23 is **April 20, 2023**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 12:00 p.m. (noon) on June 9, 2023**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$50.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Retail Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 12:00 p.m. (noon) on June 9, 2023**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$50.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

/s/
CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

MHS student barges into final round of nat’l essay tilt

A Marianas High School student’s essay has made it to the top 12 in the entire nation for final consideration in the 2023 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest sponsored by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and its 15 judicial districts.

Jia Ross Nicdao’s essay entry in the 2023 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest was named one of the essays for final consideration in the contest that was eventually won by Liam Hutchison, from Punahou School in Honolulu, Hawaii. He was awarded the first-place prize of \$3,000.

Second place went to Emma Foster of Castilleja School in Palo Alto, Califor-

nia. She won \$1,700. Third place went to Hannah Kurland-Cohen from The Downtown School in Seattle, Washington. She won \$1,000.

The 2023 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest is an essay and video contest that aims to promote civics education throughout the Ninth Circuit and its jurisdictions. The theme this year was “The 28th Amendment—What Should Our Next Amendment Be?” and students were challenged to think about what amendment they would propose and why, and how they would get their amendment ratified.

The winners of the video competition who will receive

cash prizes are:

- First place—Luke Blue (\$3,000), Mt. Spokane High School, Mead, Washington
- Second place—Team of Kevin Guo, Viktor Maletin and Annie Shang (total of \$1,700), Cupertino High School, Cupertino, California
- Third place—Team of James Sripranaratanakul and Martin Anderson (total of \$1,000), IDEA High School, Tacoma, Washington

The first-place winners, along with a parent or guardian, will also be invited to attend the 2023 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. Federal courts in all 15 judicial districts in the Ninth Circuit held local contests with winners who went on to compete in the circuit-wide contest. Of the 966 essays and 86 video entries received, 45 essays and 30 videos from the

local contests advanced to the circuit level. Of the entries that advanced, 12 essays and 10 videos were selected for final consideration by PICO committee members, judges, court and unit executives, and attorneys. Blind judging was used throughout the judging process.

Besides Nicdao, others who made it to the top 12 for final consideration are:

- Mihika Agrawal, Cupertino High School, Cupertino, California
- Luke Alexander, Sehome High School, Bellingham, Washington
- Madeleine Chang, Hamilton High School, Chandler, Arizona
- David Estrada, Windward School, Los Angeles
- Ayden Kelley, Moscow High School, Moscow, Idaho
- Courtney Tetteh-Martey,

Sage Hill School, Newport Coast, California

- Kate Stuckart, Central Catholic High School, Portland, Oregon

The students who made it to the final round of judging did so well that the organizing committee decided to award \$300 to two students for honorable mentions: Ananya Mahadevan (essay), of California Connections Academy, in Ripon, Calif., and Delaney Blenkinsop (video), of Boise High School, in Boise, Idaho.

The competition was open to students in grades 9-12 in public, private and parochial schools and home-schooled students of equivalent grade status in

nine western states and two Pacific island jurisdictions.

“The theme of this year’s Civics Contest, ‘The 28th Amendment—What Should Our Next Amendment Be?’ invited students to reflect on the privileges and obligations of citizenship combined with their aspirations for the fair operation and oversight of government. I am delighted that so many young people in our circuit took the time to share their valuable ideas with us through their thoughtful essay and creative video submissions. Congratulations to the winners of this year’s competition!” said Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Mary H. Murguia. *(Saipan Tribune)*

Torres: DOC’s unused beds can generate \$5.9M a year if allowed to house “out of state” inmates

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Department of Corrections has over 200 beds that are not being used and may collect \$5.9 million per year to house inmates who are from outside of the CNMI, according to DOC Commissioner Anthony Torres yesterday.

Speaking at the House Ways and Means Committee hearing on DOC’s proposed 2024 budget, Torres said they are currently housing 180 inmates and the facility can handle up to 500 inmates.

He said if they are able to acquire the number of beds needed, they could probably can house up to 520 to 530 inmates.

The commissioner said if they can use the 200 unused beds to house “out of state” inmates or those from outside the CNMI like from Guam, this could generate some revenue for DOC.


Torres said the current federal per diem for DOC is \$82 per inmate per day. At 200 inmates at \$82, that will bring approximately \$16,400 a day, or \$5.9 million per year.

The commissioner said they, however, need legislation to allow DOC to house inmates who are from outside the CNMI.


He said Guam is hurting and their corrections facility is overcrowded.

Torres said Guam has inmates who, especially after a typhoon, might need to be rehoused. Instead of sending their inmates to Honolulu, why not send them to Saipan, he asked.

In response to the inquiry of Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), the commissioner said if that’s something they could look at, it would be based on handpicked, non-violent offenders who are healthy, and young.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 | Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com



NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals and their qualifications for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PASSENGER LOADING BRIDGES 1, 4 AND 5 REPLACEMENT, AIP NO. 3-69-0002-100**, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **“Passenger Loading Bridges 1, 4 and 5 Replacement for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, AIP No. 3-69-0002-100”** and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to replacement of three existing passenger boarding bridges at Gates 1, 4, and 5 with new apron-drive bridges at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, including all associated work in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). The Contract provides that the Contractor shall invoice for labor and materials for passenger boarding bridge replacement at Gate 1 separately from the invoice for passenger boarding bridges replacement at Gates 4 and 5 (which may be invoiced together).

The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY U.S. DOLLARS (\$250.00)** for each set of bid documents in electronic format (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable unless bids are cancelled. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier’s check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD. Bidders should also verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 a.m., FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2023**, at the Saipan Airport Conference Room, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA’s Executive Assistant/Project Manager at email address wprater@cnmiports.com or telephone number (670) 237-6500.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director’s Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com, at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of bid submission extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased the bid documents and attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished on the DVD. Each bidder should also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX (526)** calendar days for all three bridges. Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) U.S. Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are “responsive and responsible.” This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be “responsive or responsible”, their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier’s check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation’s Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation’s Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.


By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran’s Preference, Affirmative Action and Government wide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: May 16, 2023



NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION
AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE
P.O. BOX 506689, SAIPAN, MP 96950
PHONE: 670.234.3878

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence’s (NMCADSV) mission is to promote, nourish, and sustain a collective movement against violence. All applicants must be familiar with and agree with NMCADSV’s mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic violence, sexual assault, and violence of all forms.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title:	Program Coordinator
Salary Range:	\$14.00/hr. ~ \$18.25/hr.
Classification:	Full Time, Non-Exempt.
	Full Benefits, including paid leave and health insurance.

Job Summary

The Program Coordinator will work with the Executive Director of NMCADSV, Associate Director, and other NMCADSV staff to achieve its mission, goals, and objectives. The Program Coordinator will report to NMCADSV’s Associate Director, assist with the daily operations of NMCADSV, and provide support for NMCADSV’s programmatic activities. The Program Coordinator will plan and execute activities in relation to NMCADSV’s mission and goals, with particular attention to specific activities outlined in corresponding grant applications.

Duties

- Confers with and reports to the Associate Director
- Assists with the coordination of all NMCADSV activities, including training and program development.
- Assists with development of presentation and training materials.
- Conducts presentations and assists with training events.
- Develops and executes community outreach and education activities.
- Assists with program evaluation.
- Maintains relationships and works collaboratively with a variety of organizations.
- Builds and maintains partnerships with community organizations and government agencies.
- Works with community organizations and government agencies to identify and address training needs.
- Attends all meetings (virtual or in-person) as assigned.
- Travels to national and inter-island meetings and conferences, as required or requested.
- Assists in grants management, including the preparation of application packets, gathering data for reports, and preparing reports.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications

- An agreement with NMCADSV’s mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence
- High School Diploma or Equivalent
- Experience with community organizing and/or outreach
- Experience planning and executing events
- Demonstrated proficiency in written and oral communication
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Applications and Google Applications
- Ability to manage multiple tasks and deadlines
- Ability to work some nights and weekends
- Experience with assessments and analysis
- Must be able to travel within the CNMI and US Mainland

Highly - Desired Qualifications


- Experience working in social justice or working directly with survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.
- Knowledge of dynamics of sexual violence and/or domestic violence.
- Knowledge of and commitment to culturally relevant, empowerment, and strength-based strategies for eliminating sexual violence and/or domestic violence.
- 1 year or more of documented experience/work with non-profit organizations or volunteerism
- Own transportation, with documented insurance, registration, and a valid driver’s license.

How to Apply (Deadline: Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 5:00 PM)


A Resume and Cover Letter should be submitted on or before 5:00 PM on Wednesday, June 21, 2023. Provide a list (not copies) of any certifications or awards. Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered. Resumes, cover letters, and other documents may be emailed to info@endviolencencmi.org OR delivered to the NMCADSV Office at the Marina Heights I Building in Puerto Rico, Saipan during hours of operation OR mailed to NMCADSV postmarked on or before the deadline.

Applicants who are asked to interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma(s) or equivalent, Police Clearance (dated within 30 days), valid Passport, and a list of references. NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer. Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply.

This project is supported by Grant No. 15JOVW-21-GG-00717-MUMU awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, US Department of Justice and Grant No. 2201MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/proposal/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the US Department of Justice or the US Department of Health and Human Services.



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-23-022

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FIVE (5) LIGHT-DUTY VEHICLES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids to supply and deliver five (5) light-duty vehicles to Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to assist with the project management and inspections for the CUC Water and Wastewater systems upgrades and improvements.

This project is funded by a United States of Environment Protection Agency (USEPA) grant.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-23-022, Supply and Delivery of Five (5) Light-Duty Vehicles”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 20, 2023** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before the submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 1, 2023**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

‘Bill is step in the wrong direction’

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig says the revised draft of House Bill 23-33, or the Keisha King Bail Reform Act, is a step in the wrong direction for the CNMI in terms of reforming the justice system.

He reiterated in an interview that he opposes the Keisha King Bail Reform Act as drafted because it negates the presumption of innocence. “[This bill] violates the right to reasonable bail, which is guaranteed by both the United States and the CNMI constitutions. There’s the belief that the bill would stop or avoid certain types of crime, but we just don’t see it that way at all. We think it’s very unfair and quite possibly unconstitutional and there’s just no need for it. It doesn’t address any currently existing problem here in any fair or balanced manner,” he said.

The Office of the Attorney General supports the bill.

Hartig explained that this bill would ultimately take away a court’s authority to look over the facts when it comes to repeat offenders, and its capacity to use its discretion in deciding whether the individual will be granted bail or not.

“The way things are supposed to work, and it does work, is that the judge has discretion. He can listen to facts from both the prosecution’s side and the defense’s side and he can decide whether a person is a risk. The problem here is when you start to use broad terms like domestic violence. We hear domestic violence and we think of partners who beat each other silly. But this isn’t always the case. This term also includes family trespassing, so you don’t get out on bail in that situation if there was a conviction from years and years ago. It doesn’t matter how long ago,” said Hartig. “That’s just one example. Be it an extreme example, but those facts could occur. But the point is, a judge should be able to look at that kind of case and say whether they should be released to a third-party custodian or not.”

Overall, Hartig says that his opposition comes from the OPD’s duty to protect the rights of everyone, whether they are merely accused of a crime or did commit a crime.


“Our opposition isn’t about letting hardened criminals out on bail to offend again. That’s not what defense lawyers do. We want to protect rights of people who were accused of crime falsely, unjustly, or righteously. It’s the rights that we are protecting. The judge should have the ability to do the same thing. He should have the ability to agree with us or not agree with us. Under this bill, the judge couldn’t do that, it takes away the judge’s discretion and that’s an issue,” he said.

When asked what he thought about the inspiration behind the bill, Keisha King, (the woman who was taken hostage and killed in 2020 by her boyfriend, Gordon Castro, a repeat offender who was out on bail) Hartig said the bigger issue of that incident is not being addressed.

“I would say that the problem in that case—that nobody wants to talk about—is that the problem there was you had an individual who had mental health issues, drug addiction, and had access to a service-issued firearm. No one is talking about gun control, no one’s talking about regulations within agencies that have firearms, and there’s your issue. This bill is not really tailored toward that situation,” he said.


PUBLIC NOTICE

Important Information About Your Drinking Water for the ISLEY Tank Service Area (TSA)



THIRD FLOOR,
JOETEN DANDAN BLDG.
P.O. BOX 501220
SAIPAN, MP 96950

T. (670) 664-4282
F. (670) 235-5131
Visit our website for more information at
www.cucgov.org



ISSUED DATE: JUNE 8, 2023
EXPIRATION DATE: UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
STATE ID#: MP0000001

Who is affected?

Only customers in the villages of *Chalan Kanoa, Chalan Piao, San Antonio, Afetnas, portions of Koblerville, As Perdido, As Gonno, Susupe, San Jose, Oleai, and portions of Chalan Laulau Beach Road* on the island of *Saipan* are affected by this public notice. See the attached service area map for greater detail.

What happened?

The CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) promulgated a new regulation establishing a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 0.00007 mg/L for a class of constituents called Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and requires public water suppliers to measure the concentration once each calendar quarter. On April 23, 2023, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) collected routine quarterly samples from the Isley Reservoir Tank Service Area Entry Point which services the affected areas noted above and on May 9, 2023, received sample results from its laboratory indicating the MCL for PFAS was exceeded.

Location	Sample Date	Result Date	Result	MCL
Isley Reservoir Entry Point	04/23/2023	05/09/2023	0.0000927 mg/L (92.7 parts per trillion)	0.00007 mg/L (70 parts per trillion)

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. BECQ regulations require the issuance of a public notification within 30 days of receipt of sample results. Although this is not an emergency, as our customer, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to address the situation.

PFAS are a large, complex group of synthetic chemicals that have been used in consumer products around the world since about the 1950s. They are ingredients in various everyday products. For example, PFAS are used to keep food from sticking to packaging or cookware, make clothes and carpets resistant to stains, and create firefighting foam that is more effective.¹

Current scientific research suggests that exposure to high levels of certain PFAS may lead to adverse health outcomes. However,

research is still ongoing to determine how different levels of exposure to different PFAS can lead to a variety of health effects. Research is also underway to better understand the health effects associated with low levels of exposure to PFAS over long periods of time, especially in children.²

What do you need to do?

Individuals concerned about levels of PFAS found in their drinking water should consider actions that may reduce exposure, including using an alternate water source for drinking, preparing food, cooking, brushing teeth, and any other activity when you might swallow water.


Consumers in sensitive subgroups (pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system) are advised not to drink or cook with this water and should utilize bottled water instead.

Infant formula should be prepared with bottled water.

It is safe to shower and bathe in tap water. Neither routine showering nor bathing are a significant source of exposure. Studies have shown very limited absorption of PFAS through the skin.³

What is CUC doing about it?

Before samples were even collected, CUC began to proactively address PFAS in the water supply. CUC has already installed Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) treatment units to decrease PFAS concentrations below the MCL. Additionally, CUC had already begun replacing the GAC material inside the treatment units by the time the samples were collected and, as of April 17, 2023, had completed replacement of GAC in two treatment vessels at two well locations to further decrease PFAS concentrations. Two larger GAC units will be installed by the end of this year to provide additional treatment. CUC staff is also going to rehabilitate a large producing well with high quality water and take two wells offline that have been identified as wells having higher PFAS concentrations. CUC staff will continue to monitor by sampling the Isley Reservoir Tank Service Area Entry Point to ensure the steps being taken reduce PFAS concentrations to below the MCL.



Where can I get more information?

For more information on PFAS, see the government agency websites referenced below. For more information on this notice, please contact CUC at (670) 664-4282.

CUC will provide an update to this public notice when the additional sample results are available from our laboratory.

1. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (<https://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/pfc/index.cfm>)

2. Environmental Protection Agency (<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/our-current-understanding-human-health-and-environmental-risks-pfas>)

3. New York State Department of Health (https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/investigations/drinkingwaterresponse/docs/atsdr_pfas_factsheet.pdf)

Fifth auction of IPI gaming equipment this Friday

By BEN BLASCHKE
INSIDE ASIAN GAMING

Reprinted with permission

A fifth auction for gaming equipment owned by troubled Saipan casino operator

Imperial Pacific International (IPI) will be held this Friday 9 June, according to limited receivers Clear Management.

Speaking with Inside Asian Gaming, Clear Man-

agement's director of Operations Danny Ewing said inventory available this week includes Aristocrat's Helix cabinets and game cards for Wide Screen Viridians, among other as-

sets. However, he also noted that the complexity of establishing the inventory of remaining gaming assets was the reason for the larger space between auctions, with the previous having

been held on March 10. A sixth is currently scheduled for September.

"Throughout the exercise we have had to make do with a small portable generator to provide light and power to conduct the inventory and test and check the gaming equipment," Ewing explained. "It's been an arduous task."

"IPI also only allows us access for limited hours. At first, we could bring out boxes of gaming utilities that had never been used and simple items such as gaming chairs and tables without too much trouble. Now what is left is harder to access and move."

Nevertheless, Ewing said there is still "tremendous

interest from around the world in the auction.

"We have smoothed out the court's approval process and the shippers on Saipan understand how the bidders want to work now, so it's pretty efficient," he said. "It is also tax free for goods leaving Saipan under the auction."

Interested parties can view available inventory for this week's auction at www.gamingequipment-auction.com.

Originally posted on the Inside Asian Gaming website at <https://www.asgam.com/index.php/2023/06/07/fifth-auction-of-imperial-pacific-gaming-equipment-to-take-place-this-friday/>

PROFILE Against the tide: San Nicolas' journey to Academy

By KATE KILROY
U.S. COAST GUARD ATLANTIC AREA

Four years ago, when Saipan native and U.S. Coast Guard Academy cadet Kyle Peter San Nicolas was a high school senior, he applied to the Coast Guard Academy alongside his best friend. His friend received an acceptance, but San Nicolas did not.

San Nicolas had yet to apply to other schools, but he knew the Coast Guard mission from a previous visit to U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam and was determined to join the team.

"Being surrounded by water, the Coast Guard was always there," said San Nicolas about his family home in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

San Nicolas decided to complete a year of community college and then enlist. He caught up with recruiters in Hawaii and went through boot camp in 2020.

While aboard his first unit, the USCGC Campbell (WMEC 909), San Nicolas experienced life as a seaman. He participated in pivotal deployments like Operation Nanook, a master's level, deep dive into search and rescue and joint operations in the Arctic alongside Canadian, French, Danish and U.S. Naval partners. All the while, San Nicolas kept sight of his long-term objective.

"The academy was still my goal," said San Nicolas. "After being enlisted for two years, I started my application again."

San Nicolas credits the Campbell's senior enlisted crew and junior officers, like his supervisor, then Ensign, and now Lt. Anne McGoldrick, for helping him apply, even while the cutter was underway.

"When Seaman San Nicolas indicated his intent to apply to the Coast Guard Academy, I was thrilled," said McGoldrick. "As a graduate, I would have trusted him as a classmate and knew he would make a great officer. We were happy to help him reach his goal, and I know he will have the privilege of paying it forward to another impressive Coastie."

San Nicolas says McGoldrick led by example. San Nicolas says she put the deck department's safety as the first mission and treated every crew member like a valued part of the team, from seaman to commanding officer.



(U.S. COAST GUARD PHOTO BY PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS KATE KILROY) U.S. Coast Guard Seaman Kyle Peter San Nicolas, a crew member assigned to USCGC Campbell (WMEC 909) stands watch in Nuuk, Greenland, September 17, 2020. San Nicolas is from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

McGoldrick says upon reporting to the Campbell San Nicolas immediately distinguished himself. She said the deployment he engaged in, Operation Nanook, required strong leadership even from junior members.

"He was determined, thoughtful and hard-working," said McGoldrick. "I felt comfortable relying on him as a leader, despite his short time in the Coast Guard."

San Nicolas' underway experience aboard the Campbell shaped his future in the Coast Guard.

"They were rooting for me; that drove me to go farther," said San Nicolas. "And then I got in, I was accepted into the Coast Guard Academy scholar's program."

He went through the academy's preparatory program at the Marion Military Institute in Alabama, and after going through a year of general education courses, he received an appointment to the academy's class of 2026.

Only two members from the CNMI have graduated in the academy's history— Lt. Cmdr. Christine Torres Igiso-mar in 2008, and Lt. Freddy Hofschneider III in 2013. Now, San Nicolas and four of his extended family members, U.S. Academy cadets Pution Palacios-Camacho, Noah Mesa, Seiji Gonzales and Genzo Gonzales, all have an expected commission in the U.S. Coast Guard.

"I wanted to go out, explore and see how diverse the world is," said San Nicolas. "There are so many people from everywhere; the academy even has exchange students from different countries. Being able to listen to everyone's story, because not everyone has the

same story, but being able to listen and learn from everyone makes the environment really good."

When asked what role he would like to follow in his commission, San Nicolas reflected on his time assigned to Campbell's deck department as a seaman.

"I want to be a cutterman," says San Nicolas.

Every path to serve in the U.S. Coast Guard is forged through respect, honor and devotion to duty.

Interested in joining our ranks? Visit GoCoastGuard.com to learn about active duty, reserve, officer, and enlisted opportunities.

ROBERT T. TORRES, ESQ.
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 500730 CK
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust


**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0169
vs.	NOTICE OF HEARING ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR DEFAULT JUDGMENT
EDWIN B. TUDELA and PATRICIA A. TUDELA, and PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF CHRIST through its representative, Pastor Clariza S. Ilarde, Successor in Interest, Defendants.	Date: July 31, 2023 Time: 1:30 p.m. Judge: Hon. Kenneth L. Govendo


NOTICE OF HEARING that on July 31, 2023, at 1:30 p.m., a hearing will be held before the Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo on Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment in the above-captioned matter, at the Superior Court for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI"), Guma Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, CNMI.

Dated this 12th day of May 2023.

/s/ _____
Clerk of Court/ Deputy Clerk of Court



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 | Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com



NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit bid proposals and their qualifications for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMMUTER ACCESS ROAD PAVING, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-007-18 (AIP PENDING)**, for the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Commuter Access Road Paving Project", Project No. CPA-SA-007-18 (AIP PENDING)** and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. (CHST), TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2023**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Commuter Access Road Paving all in accordance with the plans and specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the (FAA) Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred twenty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications, and the bid schedule, can be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, beginning **1:00 p.m., Monday, June 5, 2023**, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY U.S. DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each set of plans and documents. The payment is nonrefundable unless bids are canceled. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify CPA's point of contact mentioned below immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD and are to verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 A.M. (CHST), MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023**, at the Saipan Airport Conference Room to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased a DVD and attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority on the DVD. Each bidder should supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project shall be **TWO HUNDRED TEN (210) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **FIVE HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS (\$500.00)** per calendar days shall be assessed the contractor if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Government wide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: May 31, 2023

Opinion

Hafa Adail

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 114Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Seeing the light: Partnership with houses of worship to house migrants is welcome

In partnership with the New York Disaster Interfaith Services, the Adams administration has finally heard the good word about cooperation with the city's eager houses of worship to help house asylum seekers. A two year contract will allow an initial 50 congregations to care for up to 19 single adult men each—as much as is possible given existing occupancy restrictions. Compare their welcoming to illegal efforts by other counties to keep migrants out.

Let's hope the program can get up and running soon; houses of worship were not often designed to sustain people long-term and lack some of the infrastructure to comply with housing regulations, including, in many cases, proper sprinkler systems.

With an expected total accommodation of just under 1,000 asylum seekers, this program won't replace the city's existing and emergency shelters for migrants on its own. However, it can serve as proof of concept for finding housing for migrants outside of the standard avenues of shelters and hotels, including with individual volunteers (something, by the way, that this board was imploring the Adams administration to facilitate nine months ago).

While the help from the spiritual leaders is welcome, ultimately what the city really needs is a decidedly more terrestrial intervention in the form of both more funding and concrete logistical support from the Biden administration. With the debt ceiling distraction now put to bed, the president and his team should have more bandwidth and a bit more cash to dedicate to NYC. His turn towards Trump-era border policy is not particularly in keeping with our humanitarian obligations, but it does mean that the volume of people actually entering through the southern border has dropped in recent weeks.

It wouldn't cost the federal government all that much to arrange for placements and use its existing refugee infrastructure to create a much smoother landing for the asylum seekers that remain, keeping them out of the machinations of people like Texas Gov. Greg Abbott. It would save everyone quite a bit of cost and strife in the long run.

©2023 New York Daily News



Menopause doesn't have to be miserable

By JENNIFER WEISS-WOLF and SHARON MALONE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

There are an estimated 55 million women in menopause in the United States today, the majority of whom endure its most debilitating symptoms in silence. It doesn't have to be so debilitating, and it wouldn't be if we could end the silence and make even a handful of key policy changes.

Menopause has long been neglected by the mainstream medical establishment as well as by lawmakers, employers, even the media. All have failed to help women navigate this inevitable life stage. New data from the Mayo Clinic show that the burden extends far beyond the physical and physiological effects and also has huge economic consequences, with an estimated \$1.8 billion in lost earnings for menopausal women per year.

There was a bit of encouraging news last month: The Food and Drug Administration approved a new non-hormonal oral drug to treat vasomotor symptoms of menopause—better known as hot flashes. As many as 80% of women experience hot flashes, with a disproportionate effect on Black women, for whom the symptoms of menopause last longer and are experienced more intensely. Among the profound short- and long-term health consequences of hot flashes are sleep disruption, mood disturbances, brain fog and increased risk for cardiovascular disease.

Those who suffer from hot flashes deserve innovation and investment in a wide array of options, such as this latest market entry, a pill to be sold under the trade name Veozah. We are heartened to see the FDA clear the path for new treatments. But this move also calls for an urgent caveat—and a broader call to action.

It is imperative that attempts to promote sales of Veozah do not pit it against or present it as a safer, superior option to estrogen and estrogen-progestin therapy, also known as menopause hormone therapy. A decades-old study misrepresented and overgeneralized the risks of hormone therapy, creating unfounded fears for an entire generation.

Simply but emphatically stated: Hormone therapy is not only the most effective treatment for hot flashes, but also the most cost-effective one. For symptomatic women who initiate hormone therapy before age 60 or within 10 years of their last period, the North American Menopause Society, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and many other national and international organizations agree that the benefits outweigh the risks.

Hormone therapy also has long-term health benefits. It prevents osteoporosis, decreases the risk of Type 2 diabetes, and

treats the genitourinary syndrome of menopause, symptoms of which include painful sex, urinary urgency and frequent recurrent urinary tract infections. Other than treating hot flashes, additional benefits of Veozah, if any, and the long-term safety profile are unknown.

It is true that not everyone is a candidate for hormone therapy, including those with a personal history of breast or uterine cancer, a history of heart attack or stroke, or an increased risk for developing blood clots. But for millions in need of relief, hormones can and should be a first-line option.

Correcting the overblown fears of hormone therapy requires an immediate course correction. We recommend three concrete reforms as a starting point.

First, the National Institutes of Health must not only clarify current data and retract its prior warnings, but also design and begin a new modern initiative that can assess the long-term benefits of hormone therapy and accurately assess its risks. This is a move that can be directed and funded by Congress: Last fall, for the first time, Congress stepped up and introduced the Menopause Research Act of 2022 to initiate this very process; an updated version of the bill will be introduced in the near future.

Second, the FDA must end its outdated requirement to label all estrogen products with a "black box warning." That mandate is based on widely misinterpreted data in older populations who were using systemic estrogen. It would be reasonable to remove the warning from low-dose vaginal estrogen products.

And third, menopause treatments need to be accessible and affordable for everyone—meaning that all private and public health insurance programs must ensure coverage. This mandate applies especially to Veozah, which will cost a hefty \$550 for a 30-day supply. (Hormone therapy runs \$30 to \$90 per month.)

Menopause policy should be about equity—health, economic, age and gender—and enabling people to make truly informed decisions and live their best lives. It requires robust public discourse, thorough and transparent research, and a firm political commitment to prioritize women's full and fair representation at all ages and life stages.

Jennifer Weiss-Wolf is the executive director of NYU Law's Birnbaum Women's Leadership Network and the author of Periods Gone Public: Taking a Stand for Menstrual Equity. Sharon Malone is the chief medical advisor of the telehealth company Alloy Women's Health.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

We've made huge advances against COVID. Why is it still killing so many people?

Many immunocompromised and older people are still terrified of COVID. As a transplant infectious disease doctor on the front lines, I understand why.

In the first five months of 2023, COVID caused more than 37,000 deaths in the U.S., a typical toll from the flu in an entire year. Scientists estimate an annual U.S. COVID death rate of at least 100,000, dwarfing other infectious diseases. And the virus continues to evolve: The highly transmissible XBB.1.16 subvariant (Arcturus), currently making up about 15% of cases nationally, is expected to be the dominant strain by summer. Wastewater surveillance is also showing an uptick in the virus in New York City and elsewhere.

Meanwhile, the federal public health emergency ended last month, and across the country the pandemic has moved to back of mind. It's not surprising that the most vulnerable feel left behind.

Yet at the same time, health professionals are optimistic about today's anti-COVID arsenal. Biomedical advances have revolutionized our ability to thwart serious disease and death from the virus, even as it mutates. The bivalent vaccines are about 70% effective at preventing hospitalization and death, and if taken in the first five days of infection, Paxlovid or remdesivir are as much as 90% effective. Patients hospitalized in 2023 encounter a fine-tuned litany of antivirals and anti-inflammatory agents. We are at the lowest point in the pandemic for hospitalizations and deaths, and the average person being infected with COVID now has mild symptoms. Many of the protections we've developed can help most at-risk people.

So, why are so many people still dying? And how do we reconcile those numbers with the vast improvements in our COVID tools?

This disparity points to a continued public health failure to take full advantage of these tools and to communicate the evolving risks in this phase of the pandemic. COVID never treated all groups

equally, and some older people and immunocompromised individuals still face the highest risk of serious illness. But the calculus is nuanced, especially in light of treatment advances that should be used to protect more people.

To start, the immunosuppressed population is diverse. Most of these individuals, including patients on immunosuppressive medications such as corticosteroids and biologics, respond well to the COVID vaccines, which do offer them a strong layer of protection. Even for severely immunocompromised people—namely a fraction of those with malignancies or autoimmune disorders who take a drug that depletes their antibody response, as well as patients who recently got a transplant—vaccination is safe and effective when timed carefully around their treatment plans. If these higher-risk patients are hospitalized with COVID, early use of antivirals such as remdesivir with plasma and anti-inflammation therapy can help them recover.

Overall, the elderly population remains most vulnerable: Currently more than 90% of COVID deaths are of people 65 years and older. However, given that immunity (as measured by antibody response) wanes fastest in that age group, it is likely the unboosted who remain at highest risk, not the entire population. And research suggests that giving Paxlovid to a greater number of eligible patients would reduce deaths. All of this makes clear that COVID does not have to be so dire for older individuals if we ensure that more are up to date on boosters and have access to the full range of therapies.

That points to two steps our political and public health leaders should take: First, more vigorously promote the recent bivalent boosters, especially to populations that need it the most. Only 43% of those 65 and older, and 17% of Americans total, have received these boosters to date. Second, reduce barriers to Paxlovid and other

By **PETER CHIN-HONG**

Los Angeles Times

Peter Chin-Hong is a professor of medicine and an infectious disease doctor specializing in immunocompromised patients at UC San Francisco. @PCH_SF



early therapy use. This includes reeducating clinicians about the benefits and dispelling exaggerated fears about Paxlovid rebound (symptoms re-emerge after use of the medication for just a small percentage of patients, and illness can return even for people who didn't take the drug). Providers should help patients, especially those at high risk, develop a Paxlovid plan so they know how to get it, what drug interactions to watch out for and any alternatives to Paxlovid they can take.

In addition, the federal government should continue to provide funding so that all communities including the uninsured have access to testing, vaccines and early therapy. Initiatives to keep improving our COVID arsenal, such as the \$5-billion Project NextGen to promote development of vaccines and therapeutics, must be expanded.

Finally, public health leaders need to improve communications—both to combat misinformation and to make the public more aware of available resources. For example, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention still provides a map of COVID risk for counties nationwide. During high levels of hospitalizations in their community, everyone should wear a well-fitting high-quality mask. Vulnerable populations should mask during medium levels and consider wearing masks in any crowded indoor areas or on public transit.

We all need to be sensitive to the needs and fears of those among us who are at risk of serious illness from COVID. We still have work to do—but there's less reason than ever that COVID should exist in parallel universes. Far more people could be getting protection and treatment.

We need AI labels on creative content—but not for the reasons you think

By **CHRIS WHITE AND MARIUSZ KOZAK**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

In March, a picture of an aggressively fashionable Pope Francis created by artificial intelligence went viral on social media. In April, the song "Heart on My Sleeve," featuring vocals filtered to sound like Drake and The Weeknd, gained immense online popularity. In May, movie producers expressed increasing interest in using AI to generate scripts, raising red flags for striking screenwriters. And just last week, Microsoft called for government agencies to develop labels to indicate the role of AI in literature, visual design and music.

We do need labels for AI-generated content; however, the need goes beyond the concerns expressed by tech executives. While the private sector is primarily interested in deepfakes and copyright infringement, we believe content labels are necessary to protect the creative community and ensure the preservation of the human-to-human connection that lies at the heart of art and entertainment.

Anxieties over algorithms competing with, or even surpassing, human creativity are nothing new. In the 1950s, the computer pioneer Alan Turing introduced the Turing test as a basic yardstick for evaluating AI's ability to generate content that resembles human efforts. The test challenges evaluators to determine whether a text or an artwork was made by a human or a machine. If an AI vocal filter convinces you that Drake sang "Heart on My Sleeve," then that AI "passed" the Turing test.

While Turing tests provide insights into how closely AI approaches human intelligence, they also raise an existential question: What happens when we can't tell whether something was made by a human or a computer?

This question delves deep into the realms of psychology, philosophy, evolution, culture, law and computation. It turns

out that crucial to our enjoyment of art are human empathy and communication. We watch movies, listen to music and read novels for so many reasons: captivating visuals, beautiful sounds and thrilling plot twists. Yet, these are merely means to an end—to sharing the human experience and fostering a sense of belonging to a larger community.

The fact that a piece of art is created by another human adds unique importance and meaning. Throughout history, critics have argued that artists establish connections with audiences by infusing their work with their own emotions and thoughts. A love song resonates more deeply when we believe it was written by someone who has experienced love.

As algorithmic creation becomes increasingly sophisticated and as we grapple with the challenge of distinguishing between human-made and AI-generated content, the invisible human factor becomes paramount. Even if the technology passes the Turing test, will we laugh at jokes or tear up at songs written by AI the same way as those crafted by a human? Imagine feeling chills while listening to a tune, only to discover that it was generated by a digital entity. How will you react? Will you emotionally bond with a computer program? Or will you cringe at the thought of connecting with an algorithm?

This rapidly expanding sea of Turing-proof art will create a whirlpool of uncertainty. Amid the confusion, some consumers will seek out islands of verifiably human-made content. Additionally, we must remember that human programmers, institutions, training data and their inherent biases are always present, even when the content is ultimately generated by a computer model. By blurring the line between human and artificial creativity, we erase the people and corporations behind that technology.

Luckily, we have long-established traditions of standardized labeling for content that holds value for consumers. In the U.S.,

the Food and Drug Administration uses standardized labeling for organic food production, and the Federal Trade Commission oversees manufacturing designations such as "Made in the USA."

In the realm of music, some combination of regulators, legislators and record labels could establish standards that define the relationship between AI and humans in the creative process. Did the singer-songwriter create all the musical and performed materials? Did a human use AI for their inspiration, and then construct the final product? Or was the entire product synthesized by artificial intelligence?

Implementing such measures would ultimately support human creators. While AI-generated art is here to stay, and its innovations will inevitably affect jobs and revenue, we do not anticipate Turing-proof algorithms rendering human production obsolete. Just as Wonder Bread did not replace local bakeries and sound recordings did not eliminate live concerts, we believe the future cultural landscape will likely include a combination of large-scale AI generation alongside "artisanal" human production—the local bakeries of art and entertainment.

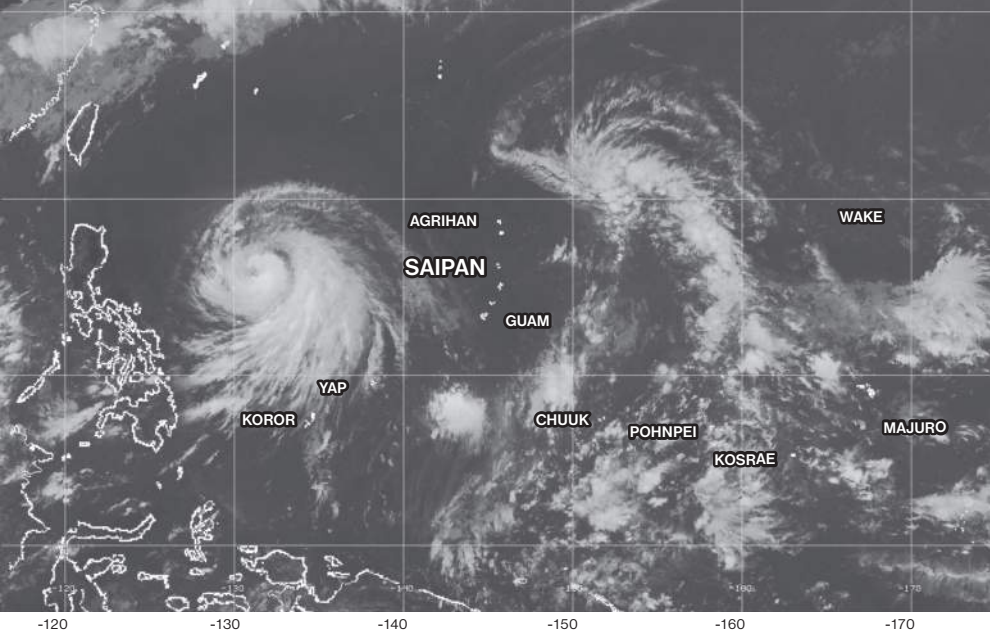
By fostering well-balanced connections between the demand for human creations and the supply of human-made content, we can ensure that, even in a world flooded with cheap and convincing AI-generated materials, we can consciously invest our time and money in art that truly evokes the human connection and empathy we deeply value.

This essay is 100% human-made content.

Chris White is assistant professor of music theory at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and is the author of The Music in the Data. Mariusz Kozak is Associate Professor of Music and Director of Cognitive Science at Columbia University. He is the author of Enacting Musical Time: The Bodily Experience of New Music.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny	
85°	77°	85°	77°	85°	76°	85°	76°	85°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:37 AM, THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies, gentle to moderate trade winds and isolated showers prevail. Tropical Storm Guchol sits well to the west while a surface trough is seen to the east near 150E. A prominent TUTT low is centered north-northeast of Saipan near 19N147E, with an upper trough slinking southward to 10N. Altimetry and buoy data reveal seas between 5 and 6 feet, composed of mainly easterly trade swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 77°	
Yap	Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:40 AM	11:46 PM
Saturday	-	11:39 AM	-
Sunday	12:29 AM	12:36 PM	-
Monday	1:09 AM	1:30 PM	-
Tuesday	1:47 AM	2:23 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	62° / 49°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	93° / 65°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 74°	
London	Mostly Sunny	77° / 59°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	72° / 60°	
Manila	Rain	89° / 81°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	56° / 44°	
Miami	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 76°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	72° / 57°	
Osaka	Light Rain	77° / 67°	
Paris	Showers	86° / 64°	
Busan	Sunny	74° / 65°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	82° / 63°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	85° / 58°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	63° / 54°	
Seoul	Thunderstorms	83° / 63°	
Tokyo	Rain	73° / 68°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	79° / 56°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:48 AM	High Tide	2.13	
6:18 AM	Low Tide	1.49	
10:30 AM	High Tide	1.92	
6:07 PM	Low Tide	-0.11	

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA156	6:55PM	7:40PM	1, 4 effective June 5	UA112	5:00PM	5:50PM	1, 4 effective June 5
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily



MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL

Celebrates



Anniversary

70 Years of faith,
service, tradition, and excellence

June 9, 2023

A SAIPAN TRIBUNE SPECIAL ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT



By TERI M. FLORES
CORRESPONDENT

In the heart of Chalan Kanoa lies a sprawling, blue and white painted structure, the Mount Carmel School, which shares the same grounds with the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

Considered the oldest Catholic school in the Northern Marianas, the school campus began on the grounds of Chalan Kanoa's old sugar mill factory generator, with one of the school's founders, Fr. Arnold Bendowsky, at the helm and sisters from the Mercedarian Missionar-

Honoring and celebrating a 70-year legacy



ies of Berriz as the school's first group of teachers and administrators. Several village parents helped remodel the facility that became the school's first classrooms.

From these very humble beginnings, MCS has now grown into one of the strongest educational institutions in the Marianas, producing illustrious alumni who go on to become Commonwealth leaders and innovators and leading lights in what has truly become a legacy to be proud of.

Throughout her growth and development, the MCS family went through changes, some of which were enough to crush the faint-hearted, but the MCS family's resiliency, bolstered by their strong faith in Divine Providence, has seen the school and its community weather some of life's greatest challenges.

Natural calamities in the form of super typhoons have wiped out many of the school's infrastructure and destroyed its student's educational resources. In most recent years, the technology that was its link to the rest of the world was damaged. But the most trying of all was the COVID-19 pandemic, whose effects were felt globally as everything shut down for months, with no immediate end in sight.

Through it all, the MCS family would always dust itself off and stand up again and again, with the help of students and their families, the government, and the school's own fundraising efforts, many of them led by their resilient AlumKnights, who are always ready to lend a hand.

MCS families give financial support to many school activities such as the Royal Court, and the AlumKnights are not shy with their contributions—the "Night of the Knights"—the yearly gathering of the school's alumni—remains well attended. This

year, the Class of 1990 was honored for generously contributing to a scholarship foundation benefitting outstanding college-bound students and athletes who want to attend MCS.

MCS AlumKnights have also left indelible marks both in the confines of the school's corridors as scholars and school administrators but, most importantly, as some of the CNMI's leaders and influencers.

MCS is an integral part of the history and landscape of the Northern Marianas. Her main contribution remains consistent—she is the catalyst by which hundreds of the CNMI's Catholic youth have been guided and educated to become "academically competitive individuals guided by humane and Christian values to make the world a better place."

■■■
In this special supplement, get to know the history of Mount Carmel School—the people behind its successes, the school's academic goals, and the activities that form part of an AlumKnight's education.

Read about the stories of three AlumKnights—Dr. Galvin S. DeLeon Guerrero, William Hunter and Joseph Guerrero—whose families have kept the MCS spirit alive by passing on the gift of an MCS education thorough generations.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Becky Furey, Nicollete Villagomez and Thomas Manglona II share their fondest memories of their time at MCS and recount how their MCS education has influenced their lives.

Get updated on the events marking the school's 70 years, highlighted by the honorees of the "Night of the Knights."

To the Mount Carmel School family, faculty and AlumKnights, congratulations on 70 years of faith, tradition and excellence!

Biba, Mount Carmel School!



1953-2023



Mount Carmel School

Educational excellence abounds in generations of knights.

Happy 70th Anniversary



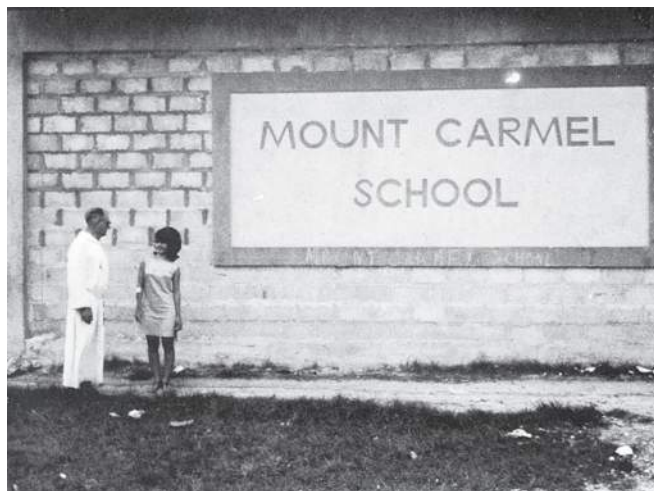
A 70-year history of keeping the faith

By TERI M. FLORES
CORRESPONDENT

As the first private Catholic school in the Northern Marianas, Mount Carmel School continues to carve a future anchored on faith and hope—the virtues that make the school one of the CNMI's oldest educational institutions.

Seasoned by time, made stronger by the ravages of World War II, economic downturns, natural calamities like devastating typhoons, and until just one year ago, the COVID-19 pandemic, MCS continues to grow in its mission of preparing its students to become “academically competitive individuals guided by humane and Christian values to make the world a better place.”

MCS' history is a master class in overcoming adversity, serving as a testament to the resilience of its founders, which it continues to pass on to generations of students.



The foundation of this educational institution that will later become Mount Carmel School was laid in 1927 when five members of the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz—Sisters Loreto Zubia, Inocencia Urizar, Pilar Lorenzo, Maria Teresa Cortazar, and Aurora Chopitea—sailed from Spain to Saipan, a yearlong journey across three continents. They arrived on Saipan on March 4, 1928.

In 1951, out of the ravages of World War II, the sisters

established the Our Lady of Mercy Kindergarten, which is now known as the Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center. This Kindergarten will be the precursor of what today is Mount Carmel School, which began offering first grade classes in 1952.

Within the same year, Fr. Arnold Bendowsky, along with the help of several parents, remodeled the old sugar mill factory generator house in Chalan Kanoa to become

Continued on Next Page

Congratulations

Saipan International School celebrates the 70th anniversary of MCS with great pride and admiration and looks forward to continuing our close partnership in the years to come.

70th Anniversary

MOUNT CARMEL CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR



YOUR FRIENDS AT





Congratulations

On behalf of our organization, we offer our heartfelt congratulations to the MCS community on its 70th anniversary. Your unwavering dedication to academic excellence and community service is an example to us all.

FROM THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF

STORES:

- ♥ LOCAL FOOD MARKET, GARAPAN
- ♥ I LOVE SAIPAN AT HYATT
- ♥ I LOVE SAIPAN, SAIPAN WORLD RESORT
- ♥ I LOVE SAIPAN AT KENSINGTON



STAR SANDS PLAZA GARAPAN
TEL: (670) 233-3131/3535

I LOVE SAIPAN OUTLET STORE MIDDLE ROAD
TEL: (670) 235-3132

P.O. Box 503842 CK, Saipan MP 96950, U.S.A. • Tel. (670) 233-4140 • Fax: (670) 233-4141

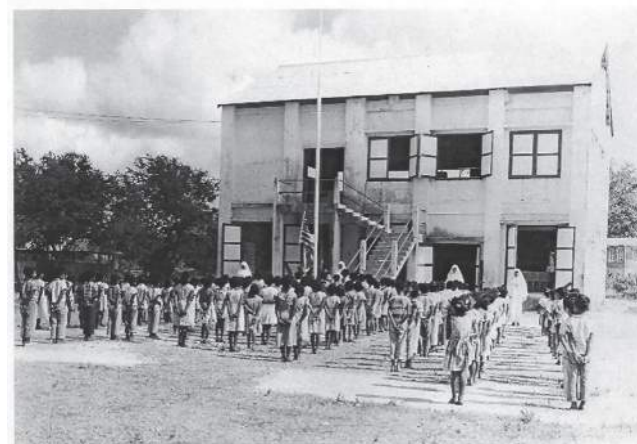
<http://www.ilovesaipan.net>

From Page 15

the first structure that will house MCS' first classrooms. In 1953, the Mercedarian sisters were again called to serve as the school's first administrators. Sr. Ana Maria became the first school superior while Srs. Dolores Larranaga and Pia Goicoechea became its first teachers. Sr. Bertha Salazar became the first principal and taught second grade. In the next two years, Srs. Soledad Castro, Mary Margaret, and Concepcion Borja joined the teaching faculty.

In 1956, Sr. Rosario Velasco and Fr. Raymond Demers, who was the superior of the Capuchins on Saipan, established what will be MCS' high school department, the first secondary school in the Northern Marianas. The following year, Sr. Felisia Plaza welcomed 41 sophomores who were to become Mount Carmel's first high school students.

In 1960, the school saw its first double graduation in the senior Class of 1960 and 8th grade graduates, the future senior class of 1964, with then-Deacon Tomas A. Camacho, the future Bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, serving as the school's first commencement speaker.



As the school entered its third decade, MCS reaffirmed its commitment to do what it does best—preparing its students for the challenges of life, both within the walls of academia and outside in the local community where its "AlumKnights" are some of today's trailblazers and leaders.

■■■

Playing a major role in the history and growth of MCS' as an educational institution are the challenges it had to bear in the face of typhoons that would see the school's classrooms damaged and destroyed and its resources stretched.

In 1960, Typhoon Olive struck and damaged several classrooms while demolishing the school library. From the rubble of this typhoon rose a new library and reading room in the Chalan Kanoa convent.

Six years later in 1966, Typhoon Jane—which in the annals of Northern Marianas' recorded history was the most damaging typhoon that has ever hit the islands at that time—saw some of the school's classrooms completely leveled, with countless books and school supplies destroyed in its aftermath.

While these natural catastrophes would certainly deflate the spirit of anyone, Fr. Arnold would always take the first steps to begin the process of recovery. At the same time, armed with his trademark laughter and his disarming spirit, Fr. Arnold would encourage the school's family to rebuild and move forward to the future.

In most recent years, 2015 proved to be one of the most challenging years for the CNMI, with two major occurrences that will see widespread devastation on the islands. Mount Carmel was not spared.

In July 2015, the CNMI lost almost all of its connections to the outside world when the sole fiber-optic cable connectivity broke, cutting off all communications. The school's operations and administrative services were disrupted with the loss of internet access. August 2015 saw the CNMI besieged by

Super Typhoon Soudelor, which left the islands in shambles and full recovery only happened after more than one year of rebuilding.

It was during these trying times when the MCS community again banded together to ensure that classes will continue despite trying circumstances. Industrial grade generators and MCS was able to run its IT infrastructure, provide running water, and turn on one unit of air conditioning per classroom so that teachers can resume their classes in an environment conducive to learning. Above all these, many students helped with campus beautification projects and participated in various volunteer activities for the community.

2018's Super Typhoon Yutu damaged the library and the gymcafetorium—the large school facility that functioned as a gym, café, and auditorium. Thanks to the help of federal funds, MCS reopened the "gymcafetorium" in school year 2020-2021 while the library is set to reopen in school year 2023-2024.

While natural calamities have become a part of the island's way of life, no one had foreseen the damage the COVID-19 global pandemic will bring not just to the islands, but to the world, when every human interaction and activity known to mankind stopped from 2020 to 2022, to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Despite the known possibility that enrollment would drop due to the pandemic, MCS earned a reputation as an exemplary school under the leadership of AlumKnight Dr. Galvin DeLeon Guerrero and current president Frances T. Taimanao. Under their leadership, MCS was able to successfully resume optional face-to-face learning by school year 2020-2021.

■■■

Like the proverbial phoenix, MCS will see itself rising above adversity—keeping its faith in God, hoping for a better tomorrow while having love for everyone in the family. It is in this spirit that MCS is knight-strong and faith-tested.



Congratulations

to MCS on reaching such a significant milestone. Your focus on innovation, exploration, and inclusion has made a profound impact on the lives of students and faculty alike.

From the Management and Staff of



PACIFIC BASIN
INSURANCE, CO.

announces the opening of their
BRANCH OFFICE
located on the 2nd Floor of
Juliana's Building
Chalan Piao, Saipan

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday & Sunday - Closed

PHONE NUMBER
(670) 234-5860

A well-rounded education



By TERI M. FLORES
CORRESPONDENT

For 70 years now, Mount Carmel School has been home to numerous students and faculty who have embraced a philosophy of life and learning anchored on faith and servitude while pursuing academic excellence.

MCS principal Filmah Buenaflor explained that, as a Catholic family, "we respect each individual for the personal gifts that each person brings into our community. This appreciation for culture and respect for diversity exemplifies a life in concurrence with Catholic teachings. With justice and love, we share the values of Jesus Christ. Supported by our positive and

nurturing community, each member develops a capacity for mature responsibility."

To live up to its philosophy and mission of educating the whole person within a Catholic community, Buenaflor said the school offers a challenging curriculum that focuses on college preparatory courses, Catholic enrichment and educational programs, extracurricular activities and social, emotional learning programs, and activities.

Through these programs, Knights, as MCS students are collectively known, get an education that incorporates the basics of education (reading, writing, and math), the sciences, and the humanities.

The school also offers a wide range of elective courses aimed at developing a stu-

Continued on Next Page

GO KNIGHTS!

70th Anniversary

BANK OF SAIPAN
MARIANAS PRIDE

Bank of Saipan, Marianas' Pride, congratulates Mount Carmel School for 70 Years of Faith, Service, Tradition, and Excellence in educating the whole person to see with Christ's eyes.

BANKOFSAIPAN.COM
2666 BEACH ROAD, CHALAN LAULAU, SAIPAN MP 96950 • (670) 235-6260 TO 5 • TINIAN • (670) 433-0332/9 • ROTA • (670) 532-2265

LIKE US ON FIND US ON

70th Anniversary

Mount Carmel School

70th Anniversary

Congratulations

On this historic occasion, we extend our warmest congratulations to MCS for its commitment to creating a more just and equitable world. Your values of compassion, respect, and inclusion are a beacon of hope.

FROM THE MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF

CHONG'S CORPORATION

AIR-CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION EQUIPMENT, SALES & SERVICE

TEL: (670) 234-6560 • FAX: (670) 234-5579 • EMAIL: chongs@pticom.com
Guam office: Universal Air Supply, Inc. Tel: (671) 647-8823/24/25 Fax: (671) 647-8821

"The most complete service, parts and equipment supply on island."

Mount Carmel School

Jubilee Year 1952-2022

70th Anniversary

Congratulations

MCS on achieving 70 years of excellence in education. Your commitment to academic and personal development has had a profound impact on countless individuals and communities.

From management and staff of

Barney's Pizza



As you celebrate 70 years of providing quality education, we applaud your unwavering commitment to academic excellence and community service. You have set a standard for generations to come.



From the Office of Senator
Jude Untalan Hofschneider
2nd Senatorial District, Tinian

From Page 17

dent's life skills. These include courses on creative writing, history, computer science and communications.

On the lighter side, students also get to participate in programs that encourage leadership, sportsmanship and the appreciation for culture and the arts. The school's athletic program sees students participating in soccer, volleyball and cross-country racing. The school's strong athletics program has produced outstanding student athletes who have represented the CNMI in major sporting competitions—basketball, soccer and tennis.

Knights are also encouraged and are known to take up volunteer work as part of the school's aim of promoting positive change in the community.

Buenafior said many Knights volunteer their time to assist local community organizations such as the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, the Commonwealth Cancer Association, Saipan Cares for Animals, the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Karidat Social Services, and 4-H Marianas, among many others.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, MCS has also strengthened their wellness programs that include retreats and workshops to help Knights cope with the current demands of society.

"Each of these programs is geared toward achieving the school's Expected Schoolwide Learning Results, or ESLR, which sets the standards for the conduct of Knights in the way they communicate, lead and practice the Catholic principles they have gained at MCS," said Buenafior.

With a challenging academic program backed by a strong Catholic foundation, MCS has prepared and molded its Knights who have become some of the CNMI's great minds and talents.

"Mount Carmel School's legacy is seen in many of its graduates who are now prominent leaders and stewards in the local community and abroad. Our MCS AlumKnights can be found leading in government, business, education, health, and non-profit organizations. This legacy of an MCS' education continues to be shared and extended to as many AlumKnights who also choose to provide their own children with a well-rounded Catholic education," said Buenafior.



*Congratulations
Mount Carmel School
on your 70th Anniversary!*

We look forward to our continued
partnership and many years to come!

From your friends at
TakeCare



**Ask
TIVA**



Chat with Us!

Scan QR Code or visit link to get started.
<https://takecareasia.com/tiva>

Customer Service (671) 647.3526

Our Island, Your Health Plan™

Quality Providers for Your Health Care Needs

TakeCare members have access to an extensive list of participating providers, both on and off island. TakeCare's growing network of contracted providers in Guam includes GMHA, Guam Regional Medical City, Guam Seventh-day Adventist Clinic, and Guam Radiology Consultants, Saipan CHC, and in countries like the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, and New Zealand. Plus an excellent network of medical specialist, practitioners and facilities in the Continental US & Hawaii through the MultiPlan network¹, which has over 1.2 million providers to choose from.

Preferred Access to the FHP Health Center (Guam)

TakeCare members have preferential access to the FHP Health Center. FHP features a roster of highly trained, credentialed, well-known and respected community-based physicians and professional staff. In addition, the center's modern technology and equipment supports medical services and expertise provided to its patients at its exceptional Centers of Care. These centers include Urgent Care, Full Service Radiology (MRI*, CT Scan*, Digital Mammography*, Ultrasound, and X-Ray) -Certified by the *American College of Radiology, Primary Care (Pediatrics, Adult Medicine, and Women's Health), Occupational Health, Home Health and Hospice, a Cancer Center (Hematology/Oncology), as well as Dental and Vision centers. In addition, FHP offers



a convenient in-house full-service pharmacy, owned and operated by MegaDrug, and full service laboratory owned and operated by Diagnostic Laboratory Services (DLS).

Technology to Help You Live a Healthier Life

TakeCare's wellness programs and MyTakeCare, our online member portal, are conveniently available. Members have access to valuable health and wellness resources, can complete a Health Check by Virgin Pulse, view claims activity, print a member card, review benefits and eligibility information, as well as manage personal health within MyTakeCare health calendar. In addition, TakeCare offers a mobile app to display your ID card, our network of providers, TakeCare wellness programs, fitness schedule, Affinity Rewards, and wellness partners. It also helps you manage your wellness and fitness incentives while tracking your fitness progress through biometrics!

Count on TakeCare to deliver comprehensive, Accredited insurance coverage and quality health care when and where you need it. Choose TakeCare. Our Island, Your Health Plan.

TakeCare
A TanHoldings Company

takecareasia.com

Connect with us

A LEGACY OF DISTINCTION



It matters to the DeLeon Guerreros that their children attend MCS. The Lion Warrior Knights as the DeLeon Guerreros call themselves, from left to right, Velma, youngest daughter Mary Shelley, Galvin, Victoria and William Blake DeLeon Guerrero.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GALVIN S. DELEON GUERRERO

One former student who carries the torch of distinction for Mount Carmel School is Dr. Galvin S. DeLeon Guerrero, the current president of the Northern Marianas College and a third generation

AlumKnight.

DeLeon Guerrero is a highly respected educator who has taught, shaped, and mentored some of the CNMI's present and future leaders.

DeLeon Guerrero's MCS education has left a profound impact on his perspective and

Continued on Next Page



We join the MCS community in celebrating 70 years of excellence in education. Your commitment to preparing students to become ethical and compassionate leaders is a testament to your values and vision.



From the management and staff of



Traders Insurance Company
SERVICE • PROTECTION • COMMITMENT

Tel: (670) 234-7788/7789 • Fax: (67) 234-8899
Website at www.tradersinsco.com



It is with great pride and admiration that we offer our congratulations to MCS on its **70th anniversary.** Your commitment to providing a rigorous and supportive academic environment is truly commendable.



From the management and staff of



GLASS & ALUMINUM PRODUCTS • SALES & SERVICE
GLAZING CONTRACTORS & ALUMINUM FABRICATORS

Lower base, Saipan M.P. • Tel: (670) 322-9282

Serving Saipan, Rota, Tinian

From Page 19

outlook in life, so much so that he aspires to make the school's mission a part of his daily life. "I have embraced the school's mission to educate the whole person to see with Christ's eyes as the core of how I live and work. This means that I strive to understand the world with the deep wisdom that informs Jesus' perspective and engages the world with the compassionate love that drives Jesus' ministry.

This legacy of servitude and compassion has been common thread across four generations of the DeLeon Guerrero family, beginning with his grandfather, Jesus Diaz Sablan. "He helped found the school in 1952 by driving around Susupe and Chalan Kanoa with a megaphone on hand, selling raffle tickets for the school's inaugural fundraiser."

Sablan's daughter, Jessica, followed suit and became one of the graduates of the Class of 1972. DeLeon Guerrero found himself next in line to become an AlumKnight. Including his studies at Sr. Remedios, DeLeon Guerrero spent all 14 years of elementary and secondary education at MCS, graduating with the Class of 1991. DeLeon Guer-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Galvin DeLeon Guerrero in high school. This AlumKnight distinguished himself as an outstanding student and as the AlumKnight of the Year when he graduated as part of MCS's Class of 1991.

rero graduated with honors, receiving the school's most distinguished graduate award.

After MCS, DeLeon Guerrero continued his studies at the University of Puget Sound where he graduated with cum laude honors in English Literature in 1996. In 1998, DeLeon Guerrero went full circle and returned to his high school alma mater where, for the past 25 years, he has held several key administrative positions starting as the school's vice principal to becoming MCS

president, which he served for nine years.

As an AlumKnight, DeLeon Guerrero shares several insights about his experiences, beginning as a student to being a parent to three students—Victoria Ann, William Blake and Mary Shelley—who are the current generation of AlumKnights.

"In the 6th grade, then monsignor and later bishop emeritus Tomas Camacho was delivering a homily at a school Mass. Pointing to the Pascal Candle, he asked the entire student body assembled if anyone could tell him what a beacon was. No one raised their hand. Until I did. He invited me up to the amble. As nervous as I was, I made my way to him, and he asked me to share my answer on the microphone. I said, 'A beacon is a light that gives hope.' He then told me, 'You are correct, faithful servant.' After that, he became a trusted mentor and a close friend until he passed away. And since that moment in the 6th grade, I have continued trying to be a faithful servant that radiates the light of hope everywhere I go."

As a parent, DeLeon Guerrero has witnessed his children learn "and grow into the amazing wonders that

they are today. As a teacher, he says he has had the privilege "to work with students and colleagues to tell amazing stories on stage or in film, deliver important messages in speech competitions, and help cultivate generations of AlumKnights who make a difference in the world." And as an AlumKnight, he has been proud to share "a great legacy with countless AlumKnights who lead and serve our community."

"What I see, both in my own family and in my former students, are AlumKnights who have yielded an exponential return on the investment in their education at MCS. AlumKnights receive the academic education they need to get into some of the world's best colleges, but they also receive the kind of character and leadership education that they need to come back and give back to their home islands."

On top of what DeLeon Guerrero describes as a robust education, he said MCS also places Catholic faith at the center of its education, ensuring that Catholic sacraments and traditions are embedded into students' lives.

"As devout Catholics, this matters to me and my



MCS Class of 1990 graduate William Hunter with his mom, Gloria Hunter.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

wife," he said.

WILLIAM HUNTER

William Hunter, a second generation MCS AlumKnight, says both the Sr. Remedios school and Mount Carmel School have become the educational pathway of choice for his parents, particularly his mother, who is an AlumKnight herself.

Hunter, who is the distance learning education coordinator at the Northern Marianas College, said his mother strongly believed that it was important for them to have a strong Christian education. "And with her being an AlumKnight herself, she knew MCS would be a good school for

Continued on Next Page

Customers First



We celebrate the dedication to faith, service, excellence, and success of our Knights and AlumKnights near and far.

Biba

Mt. Carmel School!



TRIPLE J SAIPAN, INC.

GREAT HARVEST BREAD CO. • SURF CLUB RESTAURANT • BAR-K-DINER • TRIPLE J CATERING • PAYLESS SUPERFRESH & TRUCKLOAD STORE • FIVESTAR WHOLESALE • WHOLESALE TO EVERYONE • TRIPLE J MOTORS • HERTZ & DOLLAR RENT-A-CAR • SURFRIDER RESORT HOTEL • TINIAN WESTERN LODGE • OCEAN RIDGE HOMES • SAIPAN COMFORT HOMES • SANDY BEACH HOMES • TINIAN VILLAGE LODGE • TINIAN CONFERENCE CENTER • TIRE, LUBE & CAR WASH SHOP • TINIAN GARDEN B&B • TINIAN BAKERY
TEL: (670) 234-1795 | FAX: (670) 234-7347 • EMAIL: INFO@TRIPLEJSAIPAN.COM | WWW.TRIPLEJ.NET

From Page 20

myself and my siblings."

Three generations of Hunter's family have attended MCS, beginning with his mother, Gloria Worswick Hunter. Born and raised in Palau, Gloria Hunter had to leave her family in Palau if she wanted to get an education higher than 9th grade. In 1963, armed with a scholarship from the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz, Gloria Hunter moved to Saipan to join her best friend and cousin, the late Valeria Blau to study at MCS.

William Hunter narrates that when it came time to choose where he and his siblings will attend school, both his parents were resolute in their decision to send them to MCS.

A graduate of the Class of 1990, Hunter joined his three other siblings at MCS—his eldest brother, Robert, who graduated in 1987; sister Tamara from Class of 1988; and his youngest brother, Glen, from the Class of 1991.

Following in his family's footsteps are Hunter's children, Brianna from the Class of 2017; Class of 2021 graduate Brandee; and Brissa, who will be graduating with the Class of 2023 this June.

Hunter has fond memo-

ries of his 12 years at MCS, with one of them being the time his class fundraised for their senior year trip to Australia, an event that he said left him with a lasting lesson on teamwork. "I still see the same synergy in the Class of 1990 today and it is a reason why our batch is one of the many alums that, to this day, continues to give back to MCS."

Also, it was in Virgil Abueme's computer class that sparked Hunter's interest in computers for more than just gaming. "It was the era of the Apple II and the five-and-quarter floppy disk and it was in this class where I started grasping the role technology will play in improving productivity and efficiency."

Over anything else, Hunter values the relationships that were honed during his 12 years at MCS, which until now remain strong. Aside from the values that he learned from his mom, Hunter attributes the nurturing environment at MCS for shaping who he is today. "Over 30 years later, I still connect with many of my classmates today."

Hunter credits his MCS education for building the foundation that has set the course of his life. "It is important to invest in build-

ing a foundation that is built on a strong value system and one that will help you navigate life. I highly recommend MCS to future generations. My daughters had a wonderful experience studying at MCS and I hope that the same opportunity will be given to future generations. While my wife and I had to make some sacrifices to ensure that our daughters could attend MCS, we would do it all over again if we had to.

"A sincere thank you to everyone who has had a hand in MCS' success over the last 70 years. This includes Bishop Ryan Jimenez and the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, as well as past and present school board members, presidents, principals, teachers and administrative and support staffs. Most especially, kudos to all the parents, including mine, who provided us with an amazing learning opportunity that has helped mold us into who we are today. Please continue to support MCS and help carry it through another 70 years."

JOSEPH C. GUERRERO

His family's belief in MCS' values and their support of Catholic education are the reasons why three generations of the Guerreros have



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MCS AlumKnight and Saipan businessman Joseph Guerrero.

considered the school their alma mater.

The legacy of an MCS education began with Joseph C. Guerrero's mother, Rita, who graduated with the Class of 1968. Following suit were his siblings—Anthony, Class of 1988; Bettina, Class of 1990; Patrick, Class of 1996; and Teresa Class of 2006. His wife, Eleanor T. Cabrera, attended MCS from the 1st through 11th grade, while Guerrero himself studied at MCS between

1980 and 1991 before moving to Pullman High School in Washington to complete his high school education.

The current generation of AlumKnights are represented by the children of Guerrero's siblings and his two sons Christian, Class of 2022, and Ruben who will be graduating with the Class of 2024.

Guerrero, who, with his wife Eleanor, are the co-owners of Transcends LLC, which operates the Naked

Fish Bar and Grill, Hafa Adai Realty, and Transcends Consulting, said that kindness and compassion are the greatest lessons he learned from MCS.

"The school has taught me the importance of helping others in our community and to share my time and talents as gifts from God," he said.

Guerrero recalls days of school assemblies and sporting events as treasured memories of his time at MCS. "Pep rallies were so much fun and allowed us to be creative and display school spirit. My favorite subject was lunch break where we enjoyed playing everything—dodgeball, football, basketball and volleyball."

The gift of lasting bonds of friendship are what Guerrero considers is the legacy of his MCS education. "The lifelong relationships with my classmates and many other AlumKnights are an important part of my personal life and professional life."

"As a proud AlumKnight, I am grateful to MCS for all that it has offered to me and my family and pray for its continued success in building a strong community bound together by Christian values."



Celebrating 70 years of empowering individuals and our communities
by providing quality education to students in the CNMI.

BIBA KNIGHTS!



Congratulations

to the management, faculty, and staff of the Mt. Carmel School for reaching this milestone.

From the management and staff of





Congratulations

to MCS on achieving this incredible milestone. Your commitment to empowering students to become leaders and changemakers in their communities is a testament to your visionary approach to education.

From the Management and Staff of

ARMATECH

RFID System & Motor Rewinding
Automatic Sliding Gate Operator
Installer and Repairer

Tel: (670) 234-8895 / Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

School traditions that foster fond memories

By TERI M. FLORES
CORRESPONDENT

Keeping the school's traditions alive is part of the well-rounded education that Mount Carmel School students—called Knights—receive.

"The traditions at Mount Carmel School are core events that symbolize our identity as a school and what our values are. Observing these traditions gives our Knights long-lasting memories of their time with their peers and their teachers at MCS. To this very day, AlumKnights at MCS can look back with fondness to these traditions that helped make their stay at MCS an unforgettable experience," said Victoria Deleon Guerrero, who is the school's director of Institutional Development.

The school's traditions are a combination of Catholic holy days of obligations, holidays and academic events that often see a gathering of past and present Knights.

Starting the calendar year off is the celebration of Catholic Schools Week, which is held every year, between January to Feb-

ruary. Thus, the event is celebrated in conjunction with Catholic schools all over the United States. Different aspects of the week is highlighted depending on the theme for the year's celebration. One highlight of the event is the awarding of the school's Teacher and Support Staff of the year.

A much-anticipated yearly event is the "Night with the Knights," an occasion celebrated in honor of MCS graduates, who are known as "AlumKnights." This fun-filled night comes with dancing, music and good food, all taken in the spirit of a school reunion that also serves as a school fundraiser. This evening is marked with the recognition of the AlumKnight of the Year, Class of the Year, Legacy Teacher of the Year, and the Millennial Falcon of the Year awards.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is a Catholic holy day of obligation that the MCS community takes part in partnership with the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa. The school's community may be seen assist in singing, reading, altar serving, and other services. Traditionally, MCS seniors are tasked to escort and transport the image of

the Virgin Mary around the village of Chalan Kania and then back to the Mount Carmel Cathedral.

The school helps usher in the holidays beginning with the Thanksgiving Feast, in which the entire school community participates in various events and activities to give thanks. Spearheading the collection of canned food and clothes that are donated to Karidat Social Services are the school's leadership team, student council and National Honor Society.

Marking the Christmas season is the school's Christmas program, which is a family favorite of the Knight community.

MCS hosts a yearly STEM/Science Fair, which is an opportunity to showcase the exceptional work of students in science, technology and engineering, arts, and math.

Also, for more than 10 years now, MCS has hosted a student leadership workshop that prepares student leaders to lead their organizations by providing them with information on school policies and best practices.

MCS also hold pep rallies for its Knights to develop school spirit and camaraderie. Held twice a year, these rallies also showcase the Knight's artistry, creativity, and talent with performances and works of art judged and winners named.



Congratulations



As you mark your 70th anniversary, we commend MCS for the impact you have made on countless individuals and communities. Your unwavering commitment to fostering critical thinking and personal growth has truly changed lives.



From the management and staff of

MARFEGA TRADING CO., INC

ISLANDER RENT A CAR
SAIPAN • TINIAN • ROTA • GUAM

P.O. Box 502356 CK, Saipan MP 96950

Telephone: (670)288-0373/(670)234-8233 • Fax: (670)288-0389



Exemplary AlumKnights

By TERI M. FLORES
CORRESPONDENT

AlumKnight is a noun that refers to an individual who has attended Mount Carmel School for their Kindergarten, primary or secondary education. It is portmanteau of the words "alumni" and "Knight," which is what Mount Carmel School calls its students. Thus, an "AlumKnight" is a someone who is a graduate of MCS, known for the qualities of humility, loyalty, and servant leadership.

As a Catholic institution in the Marianas, MCS prepares its AlumKnights by educating "the whole person to see with Christ's eye and grow within a Catholic community." Following this philosophy, AlumKnights are expected to integrate the values of their Catholic faith with the way they interact with their families and their community, according to Victoria Deleon Guerrero, who is the school's director of Institutional Development.

Throughout its 70 years, MCS has contributed the skills and expertise of AlumKnights who have distinguished themselves in all as-

pects and areas of the CNMI community.

BECKY ADA FUREY Class of 2003

Becky Furey is a second generation AlumKnight who attended MCS when she was in the 8th grade until her graduation in 2003. Furey shares the same story as that of numerous MCS alumni whose ties with the school span several generations.

"My parents thought it'd be best to attend MCS for multiple reasons, but mainly because it is my mother's alma mater that provides a Catholic education and will strengthen my Catholic faith. The same reason goes for today with my daughter. She is currently a student at MCS, and I am happy that we can share in this legacy together."

As an AlumKnight, Furey believes her student peers and the senior students during her time influenced her the most. "The fact that we all desired to strive for further excellence after high school fueled me to try my best to achieve at the next level."

Now the program director of the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance since 2013, Furey's advocacy is on conservation

and environmental protection, a passion nurtured after watching and listening to the experiences of her father who is an island ecologist. With her daughter as her inspiration, this AlumKnight pursued a Master of Science degree in Environmental Policy & Management, which comes handy in Furey's mission to continue conservation efforts throughout the CNMI.

"The Marianas is and will always be home. My grandparents instilled in our family the pursuit of education and dedication to public service. I always knew that after receiving my degree from university, that I will return and serve my island community. My experiences and passion to protect and support our islands' natural resources so that my daughter could enjoy the beauty of our home inspired me to attain graduate studies. This decision was not only as a CNMI native but as a shared concerned resident of our local environment with a call to duty. I have been humbled to serve our community, along with our community partners and amazing colleagues with a shared passion for serving

Continued on Next Page



From the management and staff of



We offer our heartfelt congratulations to MCS on 70 years of preparing students for success in all areas of life. Your focus on intellectual curiosity, creativity, and personal growth has made a lasting impact on the world.

We join the MCS community in celebrating 70 years of academic and personal excellence. Your legacy of compassion, integrity, and service will continue to make a difference in the world.



70th
Anniversary



FROM THE OFFICE OF
Rep. Roy Christopher A. Ada
CNMI House of Representatives
Precinct #1

Congratulations

Mount Carmel School for 70 years of faith,
service, tradition and excellence in education.

GO KNIGHTS!



Representative Edwin K. Propst
Floor Leader
CNMI 23rd Legislature



From Page 23

our islands' way of life."

Furey extends a happy 70th anniversary to MCS and shares the message that "our...fathers acknowledged the importance of taking care of our environment, saying that respect for human beings and nature are one and that the concern for the environment needs to be out of sincere love for our neighbor. Everyone has their part to play in our islands' future, we are all called to action."

GOV. ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Class of 1979

One Mount Carmel School AlumKnight who has done the school proud is the CNMI's incumbent governor, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, who credits the education he received at MCS as a cornerstone of his life.

"It instilled in me resilience and perseverance, a yearning for consistent progress, and an ability to envision the future with clarity and discernment," he said.

Palacios believes that being an AlumKnight testifies to the power of disciplined education and a nurturing environment that shapes not just minds, but also hearts.

Palacios and his siblings

are all AlumKnights—a decision his parents made for all their children because they want them to gain a solid foundation built on the values of faith and servitude.

"Despite the challenges, [our parents] prioritized [our] education, making sacrifices along the way to ensure we had the merits of an education steeped in discipline, Catholic values, and academic excellence. Above all these, my parents saw in Mount Carmel a sanctuary of learning, of growth, and of becoming," according to the governor.

Palacios recalls with admiration and respect the influence his MCS mentors has had on his life. "Throughout my time at MCS, many mentors influenced my life path, among them a cadre of dedicated educators, from the likes of Sr. Bertha, Sr. Rosa—or Auntie Chailang, as we fondly call[ed] her—Sr. Ana, to the Capuchin priests and many other nuns who stood at the helm of the classroom. ...Then there were our Peace Corps volunteers, particularly Mr. Leachman and Mr. Whitbeck, who, alongside their counterparts, sparked our curiosity and instilled in us a desire to learn," the governor recalled.

Palacios began his career as a public servant soon af-

Continued on Next Page



Congratulations

MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL

*on reaching this
tremendous milestone!*

From your partner in education,
CNMI Public School System



From Page 24

ter returning from Oregon where he completed his business studies at Portland State University, first joining the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources where he rose through the ranks within nearly two decades.

"Before I started on my journey of public service, my career took an unexpected but enriching detour. I found myself with a business degree in hand, working in the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. While I had initially envisioned a future at Commerce, my dad and destiny guided me toward DLNR. As fate would have it, I rose from a humble position as a data manager and statistician, later becoming the director of Fisheries and eventually appointed secretary of DLNR—this would span over close to two decades," the governor said.

It was the desire to make a difference that eventually compelled Palacios to consider running for elected office—a decision that he said was not taken lightly. "It stemmed from a desire to make a difference, to not merely be an onlooker but a contributor. It occurred to me to stop standing on the sidelines, to cease voicing complaints, and instead, to take charge, roll up my sleeves, and serve our beloved CNMI community," said the governor.

As MCS celebrates its 70th anniversary this year, Palacios has this to share: "May you continue to embrace the tenets of discipline, academic excellence, and Catholic values that MCS has stood for these seven decades. Keep striving for excellence, set bold goals, and let the light of knowledge guide you in the pursuit of your dreams. Here's to 70 more years of creating servant leaders, innovators, and changemakers!"

NICOLLETTE VILLAGOMEZ Class of 2007

Nicollette Villagomez attended MCS as a first-grade student and then became a returning alumnus during late fall semester of her freshman year, when Villagomez went back to MCS upon the desire of her mom, an AlumKnight herself, who wanted her to continue the family tradition of being a Knight.

A civil engineering graduate of the Boise State University, Villagomez decided to pursue studies in the applied sciences to cultivate her interest in the fields of design and construction. After completing her studies abroad, Villagomez returned to the Northern Marianas by first joining EFC Engineers and



Architects and before joining the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. She has been with CUC, which for almost 10 years she has been with the corporation's Water & Wastewater Engineering Division as a junior engineer.

When asked how her education at MCS influenced her outlook in life, Nicollette Villagomez has this to say: "My overall outlook in life is solidified by the Catholic principles that were instilled in me at Mt. Carmel. Also, being an AlumKnight has helped pave the way for me to achieve the necessary training for my advanced collegiate studies."

As one of the CNMI's budding professionals, Villagomez had always known she wanted to return home after studying and gaining experience abroad. "Our island community is a special place and returning home as an engineer to help improve the quality of life for our people is the biggest motivation for me. As a CNMI resident, we don't have many local engineers, so returning home to a field that is slowly growing with local engineers is promising."

"Congratulations Mount Carmel School on 70 years. To my fellow AlumKnights, remember the values of the faith and knowledge shared in the halls and Cathedral!"

ESTHER L. MUNA Class of 1984

Credited for a strong leadership that has brought vast improvements in both the administration and operation of the Commonwealth HealthCare Corp., this AlumKnight's love for family, the local culture, and the community had made her stay for the long haul.

CHCC's chief executive officer, Esther L. Muña, returned to the CNMI following her work overseas because she wanted to help improve the local community's access to healthcare through effective healthcare administration.

"Understanding how individuals access health through the medical claims made me want to learn more and explore how I can improve healthcare here. I realized my passion for healthcare administration while doing medical billing and coding."

Muña's innovative spirit, combined with her grit and perseverance, are some of the qualities she employs to ensure CHCC's effectiveness and viability as the CNMI's


primary healthcare facility.

"The industry is complex. It evolves very quickly, and it requires a lot of investment and flexibility. It's very challenging, especially when it is not financially supported. So you constantly read about the new ideas and best practices and that's why I chose it. It keeps me on my toes, for sure."

Muña attended MCS beginning in 5th grade. Aside from integrating the Catholic faith into her education, Muña's parents believed that an MCS education would help in her personal development. "They wanted that for their 13 children. I remember my parents always praying for us to always do the right thing in life and I loved listening to my mom speak of the advice she gets from the priests and nuns at MCS. She trusted MCS and the people that worked there."

To the young Muña, biology teacher Luz Buccat's approach to critical thinking inspired her love for the sciences. "Science and faith sometimes don't agree and

Continued on Next Page






70th Anniversary

Congratulations

MCS

on this historic milestone.

Your innovative teaching methods and commitment to student-centered learning have transformed countless lives and communities.

From the management and staff of

SAN NICOLAS LAW OFFICE, LLC

2nd Fl., Is; and Commercial Center, Room 203, Chalan Pale Arnold,
Gualo Rai, Saipan P. O. Box 10001, PMNB 602, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. (670) 234-7659 (SNLW) • Fax: (670) 234-9218
Email: jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net • <http://www.sannicolaslaw.net/>



From the management and staff of

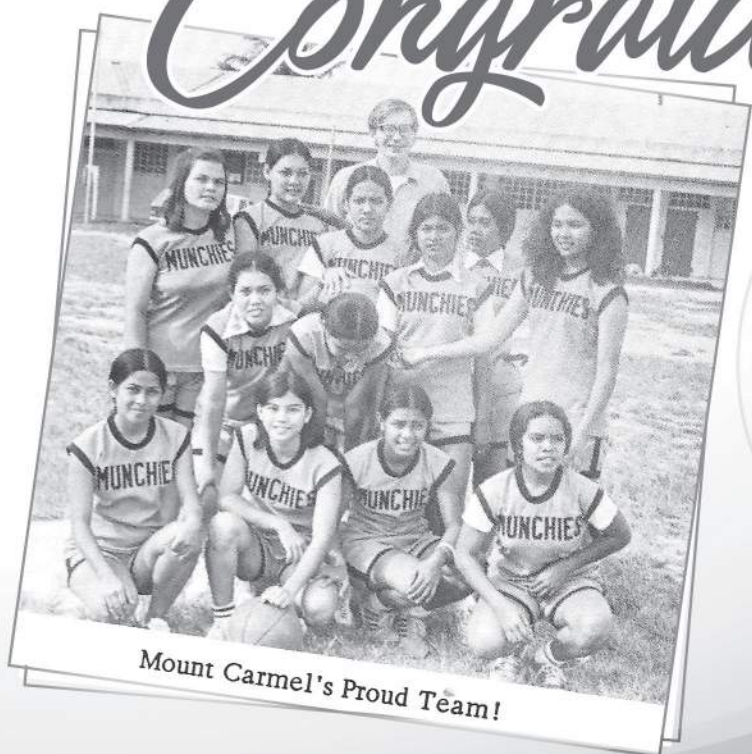


Suite 203 MHII Building Marina Heights
Business Park Saipan MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 235-8722 • Fax: (670) 235-6905

MCS has been a shining beacon of education for 70 years, and we celebrate this milestone with you.

Your commitment to preparing students for success in all areas of life is a testament to your unwavering dedication and passion.

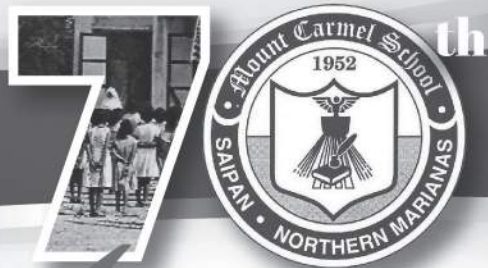
Congratulations



Mount Carmel's Proud Team!

MCS on achieving
70 years

of excellence in education.
Your commitment to academic
and personal development
has had a profound impact
on countless individuals
and communities.



Anniversary

From the Management & Staff of
Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

From Page 25

it's important to share both perspectives. To be open to all perspectives is significant in life and her teachings helped me to be more understanding in my home and at work."

Looking back, Muña believes her MCS education left a positive impact on her beliefs and outlook in life. "An MCS education synthesizes faith, family and education. I pray every day for guidance and for me to do the right thing, especially when facing the challenges of leading a team of almost 1,000 staff and providing health services to the entire community. I know I can't solve all the health problems of this community and especially when the problems stem from external factors. But, as an AlumKnight, I bring it and always will."

"Congratulations to MCS faculty, staff, students, and AlumKnights! Let us take pride in our MCS education by practicing what we learned and by lifting others. Not all can attend MCS, but all can see what it does by how we live and how we act toward one another. God bless you, MCS, always and God bless the CNMI!"

THOMAS MANGLONA II
Class of 2016

If Thomas Manglona II were to describe the education he received from Mount Carmel School, his response would be: "MCS taught me that nothing is beyond reach if your heart is in the right place and full of faith."

A native of Rota, Manglona moved to Saipan to continue his high school education and, following his parent's decision, he enrolled at MCS in 2012 as a freshman. "MCS provided a well-rounded and faith-centered education and environment," said Manglona.

For Manglona, former MCS president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero stands out as one of his mentors. "He created a welcoming environment, supported my goals, and encouraged a community-first approach to education. He taught me to be a lifelong learner and to never stop chasing my dreams."

As one of the CNMI's current crop of local talents and influencers, Manglona became aware of the need for journalism in sharing the community's stories and its people. A multimedia journalist and the current chief CNMI correspondent for regional news source KUAM, Manglona returned home See **ALUMKNIGHTS** on Page 28



Anniversary



CONGRATULATIONS

MCS for 70 years of shaping young minds
and fostering a love of learning. Your impact
on the lives of students and the wider
community is immeasurable.

From the management and staff of



Chalan Monsignor Guerrero,
Dan Dan, Saipan, CNMI
Email: javajoes_saipan@yahoo.com
Tel: (670) 235-5098
Fax Phone: (670) 235-5098
Mailing Address: PMB 668 Box 10000
Saipan, MP 96950

f Java Joe's Saipan
i Javajoes_saipan670



Congratulations

to the MCS Community on
your 70th anniversary. We are
grateful for your partnership
over the years. May God
continue to strengthen you
as you move forward in your
mission of 'educating the whole
person to see with Christ's eyes.'



From the management and staff of



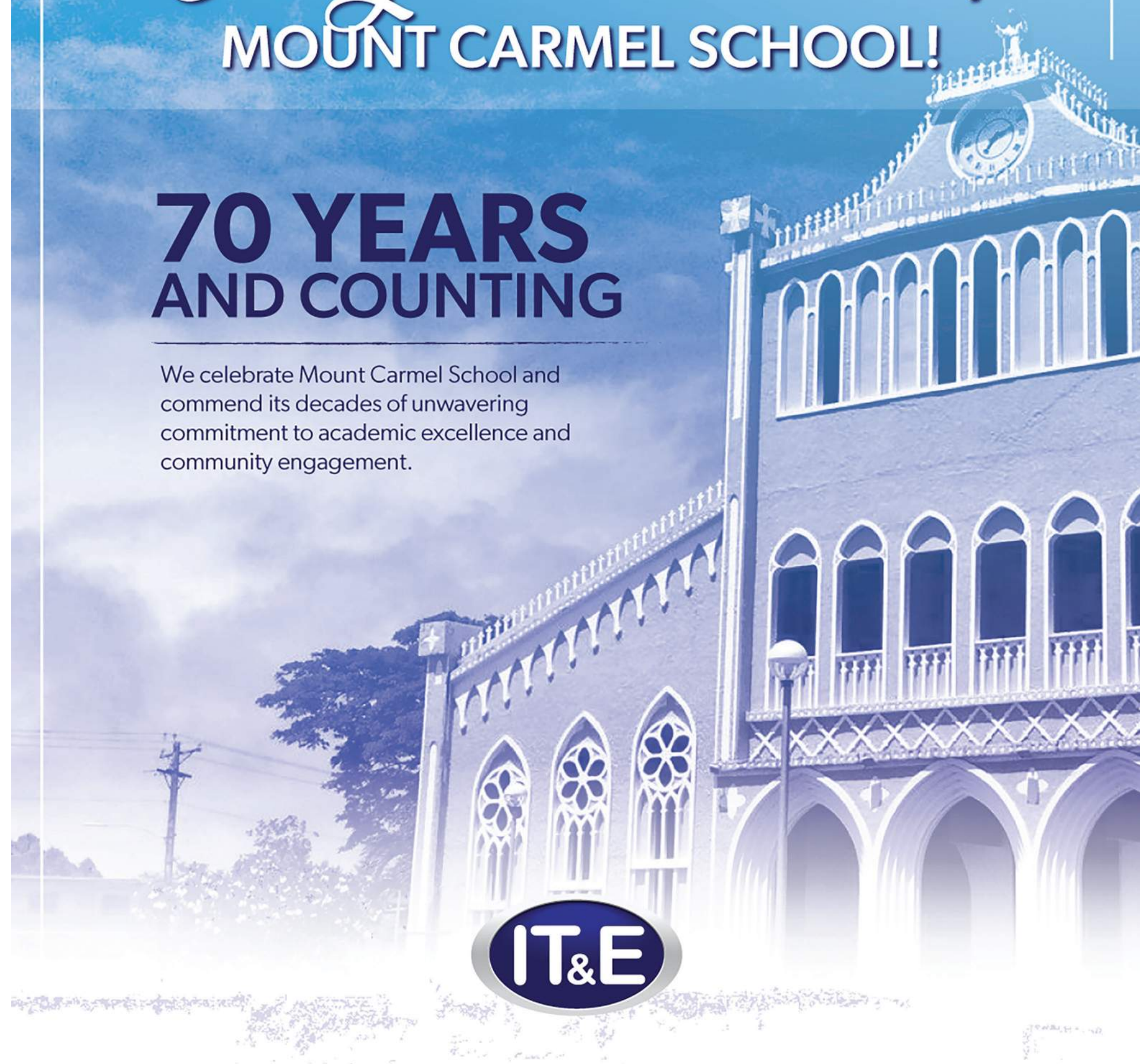
Physical Address: 1 Magas Loop Navy-Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Mailing Address: PO BOX 600543 CK Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 322-3320 • gracechristian@gca-nmi.com



Congratulations, MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL!

70 YEARS AND COUNTING

We celebrate Mount Carmel School and commend its decades of unwavering commitment to academic excellence and community engagement.





Congratulations

to the MCS community on this historic occasion. Your commitment to fostering a culture of diversity and inclusion, while maintaining high academic standards, is an inspiration to us all.



An Equal Opportunity Employer

MOYLAN'S INSURANCE • HOME OF THE GOOD GUYS & GALS

Moylan's Insurance Underwriters (Int'l), Inc.
P. O. Box 500658 Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 670-234-6571 / 6129 • Fax: 670-234-8641
Email: saipan@moylans.net

Key Personnel
Catherine Tenorio - Branch Manager

ALUMKNIGHTS

From page 26

upon completing his Media Studies degree at the University of California at Berkeley where he graduated with high distinction and from Stanford University where he completed his master's degree in journalism.

It was always Manglona's goal to return home to the CNMI to practice his craft. "I wanted to provide a more complicated and fuller picture of my island home. Growing up, no newspaper was printed, and no reporter lived on Rota. The lack of media allowed politics to go unchecked. It also meant that the good news of our community was not being shared," he said. "I want to share that good news."

In its 70 years as a Catholic school, MCS has shaped the minds and hearts of these "AlumKnights of the Year"—the leaders and trailblazers who are contributing to the growth of our community:

- Sister Isabel T. Semanm 1963
- Former governor Benigno Fitial, 1964
- Former lieutenant governor and retired justice Jesus C. Borja, 1967

- Former governor + Eloy Inos, 1967
- Former representative Felicidad Ogumor 1968
- Business pioneer Mr. Jesus V. "J. M." Deleon Guerrero, 1968
- Architect and entrepreneur Efrain F. Camachom 1969
- School leader + Rita Kazuma-Guerrero, 1969
- Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, 1973
- Business leader Merced Marcie M. Tomokane, 1973
- Attorney, Lucia Blanco-Maratita 1977
- Former lieutenant governor Diego T. Benavente, 1978
- Attorney Brien Sers Nicholas 1979
- Physician Dr. Norma Ada, 1984
- Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Dr. Esther Lizama Muña, 1984
- Business leader and entrepreneur Vicente "Ben" Babauta, 1985
- Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada, 1986
- Educator Dr. Debra Tudela Cabrera, 1990
- Law professor and dean Rose Cuison-Villazor, 1991
- Education leader Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, 1991
- Educator Elaine Cabrera Dela Cruz, 1997
- Former representative Christina Marie Sablan, 1999



Congratulations

As you mark this momentous anniversary, we salute the MCS community for its unwavering commitment to creating a better world through education. Congratulations on 70 years of making a difference.



From the management and staff of
Shirley's COFFEE SHOP
Home of the Best Fried Rice

Facebook: shirleyscoffeeshopfan Twitter: @shirleys_saipan Instagram: shirleyscoffeeshop

Garapan: Tel: (670) 233-4519/20 • Sunday - Thursday: 6am - 10pm • Friday-Saturday: 6am - 6am, (24 hrs.)
Susupe: Tel: (670) 235-5379/80 • 6am - 10pm daily

Business

GOP conservatives shutter House to protest McCarthy-Biden debt deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—In fallout from the debt ceiling deal, Speaker Kevin McCarthy is suddenly confronting a new threat to his power as angry hard-right conservatives bring the House chamber to a halt, reviving their displeasure over the compromise struck with President Joe Biden and demanding deeper spending cuts ahead.

Barely a dozen Republicans, mainly members of the House Freedom Caucus, shuttered House business for a second day Wednesday in protest of McCarthy's leadership. Routine votes could not be taken, and a pair of pro-gas stove bills important to GOP activists stalled out. Some lawmakers asked if they could simply go home—and eventually they could. By evening, the rest of week's schedule was called off.

McCarthy brushed off the disruption as healthy political debate, part of his "risk taker" way of being a leader — not too different, he said, from the 15-vote spectacle it took in January for him to finally convince his colleagues to elect him as speaker. With a paper-thin GOP majority, any few Republicans have outsized sway.

But the aftermath of the debt ceiling deal is coming into focus: The hard-right flank that helped put the speaker in power five months ago is not done with McCarthy yet.

"I enjoy this conflict," the speaker bantered Wednesday at the Capitol, saying he feels like Goldilocks being pushed from all sides. "Conflict makes you stronger if you deal with it."

At its core, the standoff between the House conservatives and the speaker revolves around the budget levels McCarthy agreed to in the debt-ceiling bill with Biden that the right flank of his conference strenuously opposed. The agreement restricted spending, but not as much as the Freedom Caucus and others demanded. Unable to stop the debt bill's passage last week, the conservatives are now digging in and preparing for a longer fight to prevent it from taking hold.

It's all setting the stage for a potentially disastrous showdown ahead, when Congress will need to pass spending bills to fund the government at the levels set by the McCarthy-Biden debt package,

or risk a shutdown in federal government operations when the new fiscal year starts Oct. 1.

The test will likely come even sooner, this summer, when the Biden administration is expected to ask Congress to approve supplemental funding for Ukraine to fight the war against Russia. It's an issue that splits the Republicans between those who want to cut budgets and those insisting on a strong military.

Aligning with the defense hawks, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell raised his own concerns Wednesday about the cap on military spending: "I'm not sure at this point how to fix it, but it's a problem, a serious problem."

While the conservatives have aired a long list of grievances, the debt deal looms largest.

The McCarthy-Biden compromise set overall federal budget caps—holding spending flat for 2024, and with a 1% growth for 2025 — and Congress still needs to pass appropriations bills to fund the various federal agencies at the agreed-to amounts. That's typically done by Oct. 1. After Biden signed the debt deal into law last weekend, lawmakers have been fast at work on the agency-spending bills ahead of votes this summer to meet the deadline.

Not only did the conservatives object to the deal with Biden as insufficient, they claim it violated the terms of an agreement they had reached with McCarthy to roll back spending even further, to 2022 levels, to make him speaker.

"There was an agreement in January," Rep. Ken Buck, R-Colo., told reporters after he left the speaker's office Wednesday morning. "And it was violated in the debt-ceiling bill."

McCarthy insists the agreement he made during the speakers race to roll back spending to 2022 was not a guaranteed outcome, only a goal. Besides, the debt deal has a provision that would automatically return spending to the 2022 level if Congress fails to put in place all the funding bills by January.

"We never promised we're going to be all at '22 levels—I said we would strive to get to the '22 level or the equivalent amount," McCarthy said Wednesday. "We've met all that criteria."

McCarthy also said he's not opposed to more funding for Ukraine, but he wants to see exactly what's needed rather than simply agree to undoing the spending caps that he negotiated with Biden and that were just signed into law.

Democrats watching the fallout from the debt-ceiling deal are mindful of the challenges ahead.

"I think it's going to be tough," said Rep. Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut, the top Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee.

"You've got a whole bunch of people who want to cut back," she said of the Republicans. "Potentially they could hold up appropriations."

If Congress fails to pass the spending bills by fall it risks a federal government shutdown—an outcome conservatives have forced multiple times before, starting in the Clinton era when then-Speaker Newt Gingrich led the House into a budget standoff, and again in 2013 when conservatives shut down the government as they tried to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

The longest federal shutdown in history was during the Trump era when Congress refused his demands for money to build the border wall between the U.S. and Mexico.

For now, McCarthy and his leadership team need to just figure out how to bring the House chamber back into session.

"This is insane," said Republican Rep. Steve Womack of Arkansas. "This is not the way a governing majority is expected to behave, and frankly, I think there will be a political cost to it."

The bills on tap this week were not the most pressing on the agenda, but are popular among Republicans and carry important political messages even if they have no chance of becoming law.

Among them is a pair of bills related to gas stoves, including one that would prohibit the use of federal funds to regulate gas stoves as a hazardous product.

House action came to a sudden halt midday Tuesday when the band of conservatives refused to support a routine procedural vote to set the rules schedule for the day's debate. It was the first time in some 20 years a routine rules vote was defeated.

McDonald's awards Crew of the First Quarter 2023

McDonald's of Saipan congratulates the Crew of the 1st Quarter 2023.

From McDonald's Chalan Lau Lau branch, Crew of the first Quarter was awarded to Jerriz Castro.

"Jerriz Castro has shown great teamwork, attitude, and is always willing to learn. Jerriz being awarded Crew of the 1st Quarter is well-deserved and we are proud for her to be working with us at McDonald's," said general manager Joyce Asistores.

From McDonald's Garapan Express location, Crew of the 1st Quarter was awarded to Jenny Loi Dagupan.

"Jenny Loi Dagupan started working with McDonald's on Aug. 12, 2022, since the beginning Jenny Loi showed how she's committed to work, she always brings a positive attitude, shows willingness to learn, and gives a helping hand to her co-workers without being asked. And she takes pride in every job well done. The managers and co-workers can count on her in every situation when times get tough and challenging in the restaurant," said general manager Ruthzel Perez.

McDonald's of Guam & Saipan, locally owned by Jose and Marcia Ayuyu, is the leading food service restaurant chain in the Mariana Islands. McDonald's of Guam and

Saipan have served the local communities for over 50 years in Guam and 30 years

on Saipan and remains one of the islands' largest employers. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

McDonald's Chalan Lau Lau general manager Joyce Asistores, left, and McDonald's Chalan Lau Lau People Department manager Gisel Achas, right, hand Jerriz Castro the Crew of the First Quarter certificate and gift bag.



McDonald's Garapan general manager Ruthzel Perez, left, and McDonald's Garapan People Department manager Jeanette Keremius, right, hand Jenny Loi Dagupan the Crew of the First Quarter certificate and gift bag.

GRMC recognizes NDMS responders for post-Mawar support

DEDEDO, Guam—Guam Regional Medical City would like to recognize the exceptional efforts of the deployed disaster responders of the National Disaster Medical System, who in the wake of Typhoon Mawar, came to GRMC's immediate aid in supplementing medical supplies, equipment, and patient care support.

Remarkably, within 24 hours from GRMC submitting an assistance request to the Guam Homeland Security Office's Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF-8) online portal, a team of HHS NDMS leadership team members arrived at GRMC to coordinate medical staff support to decompress the hospital's inpatient and emergency departments. Prior to their arrival, the HHS NDMS team had coordinated the pick-up of refrigerated pharmaceuticals that GRMC ordered from its supplier in Hawaii. Because traditional shipping methods

for the pharmaceuticals were suspended due to the storm, the HHS NDMS team loaded them onto their charter flight and personally transported them to Guam, so that they could be delivered to GRMC for immediate patient care.

GRMC chief medical officer Dr. Alexander "Beau" Wielaard said, "GRMC's Emergency Department plays a vital role in Guam's healthcare system every day, caring for all patients that arrive at its doors. The surge of needs following the devastation from Typhoon Mawar has been unprecedented. GRMC would like to extend sincere gratitude to our colleagues from the HHS NDMS team who have worked tirelessly alongside our own people to ensure we can provide the highest standard of emergency care to our community throughout such a difficult time."

"Responders from NDMS are everyday heroes from

across the United States who answer the call when disaster strikes," said Peter Cassell, spokesperson for the HHS Administration for Strategic Response and Preparedness (ASPR). "We are here to support the GRMC hospital staff as they have been responding to the increase in patients due to the typhoon and treat patients in the emergency department. ASPR stands prepared for this tropical weather season, and we thank our local and territorial partners in Guam for their work."

The National Disaster Medical System is one of many response operations of the Administration for Strategic Preparedness & Response (ASPR) under the U.S. Department of Human Health Services (HHS). They provide emergency health and medical assistance in response to any natural or man-made disaster in the U.S. For more information, visit <https://aspr.hhs.gov>. (PR)

Nation

IN BRITISH PM'S FIRST WHITE HOUSE VISIT

Biden, Sunak to focus on Ukraine, economic security

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's Truth and Reconciliation Commission said Thursday it will investigate 237 more cases of South Korean adoptees who suspect their family origins were manipulated to facilitate their adoptions in Europe and the United States.

The new cases in the commission's expanded inquiry into South Korea's foreign adoption boom involve adoptees in 11 nations including the United States, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden who were adopted from 1960 to 1990. More than 300 adoptees from Europe, North America and Australia filed ap-

plications last year demanding their cases be investigated.

The commission said most of the applicants claim their adoptions were based on falsified records that laundered their status or origin to ensure their adoptability and expedite custody transfers across borders. Some applicants asked the commission to look into abuse they say they experienced at South Korean orphanages or under the care of their foreign adoptive parents.

When the commission said it would investigate the first 34 cases in December, it said the records of many adoptees sent

to the West had clearly been manipulated and falsely described them as orphans or faked their identities by borrowing the details of a third person.

The commission's potential findings could allow adoptees to take legal actions against agencies or the government, which would otherwise be difficult because South Korean civil courts put the burden of proof entirely on plaintiffs, who often lack information and resources.

About 200,000 South Koreans, mostly girls, were adopted to the West in the past six decades, creating what's believed to be the world's largest dias-



British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak watches a drone demonstration as he visits the Friendship Technology Preparatory High School during his trip to Washington, Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

More states legalize fentanyl test strips

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—At Cleveland's Urban Kutz Barbershop, customers can flip through magazines as they wait, or help themselves to drug screening tests left out in a box on a table with a somber message: "Your drugs could contain fentanyl. Please take free test strips."

Owner Waverly Willis has given out strips for years at his barbershop, hoping to protect others from unwittingly being exposed to the highly potent synthetic opioid ravaging the U.S. and often secretly laced into other illegal drugs.

"When I put them out, they just fly out the door," said Willis, who proudly hands out about 30 strips a week as part of The Urban Barber Association, a Cleveland organization that provides health education to the community via local barbershops.

Nearly 18 years into his own sobriety from drugs, Willis isn't shy about making the strips available. He figures he'd be dead if fentanyl were so widely prevalent when he was using.

Fentanyl has driven overdose deaths in the U.S. since 2016, and that isn't changing as the cheaper and deadlier synthetic opioid continues to be cut into the drug supply. Approximately 75,000 of the nearly 110,000 overdose deaths of 2022 could be linked to fentanyl, according to data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Legalizing test strips could bring those numbers down, advocates say, saving lives by helping more people understand just how deadly their drugs could be.

Until this spring, use of the strips was technically illegal in Ohio. It has joined at least 20 other states whose law-

makers formally decriminalized the strips since Rhode Island became the first in 2018. Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Kentucky and Mississippi also followed suit this year.

The CDC recommends fentanyl test strips as a low-cost means of helping prevent drug overdoses. They can detect fentanyl in cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin and many other drugs — whether in pills, powders or injectables.

Yet these small paper strips are still considered illegal in some states, outlawed under drug paraphernalia laws dating to the 1970s era war on drugs — long before fentanyl began seeping into the nation's drug supply. Every state but Alaska had an anti-paraphernalia law on the books by the mid-1980s, making materials used for testing and analyzing illicit substances illegal.

Increasingly, the strips are now being seen as a potentially life-saving.

Newark, Ohio, resident Rodney Olinger has used methamphetamines for eight years. The 45-year-old gets four to five fentanyl test strips weekly from the Newark Homeless Outreach, and calls them a "blessing." He credits the strips with helping ensure he and his fiancée, who also uses, stay alive.

"It's very scary," Olinger said of fentanyl. "Just a little bit could kill you."

While the strips may not prevent drug use overall, they allow testers to take a pause if a strip comes back positive, possibly encouraging them to reconsider drug use and seek help, said Sheila Vakharia with the national nonprofit Drug Policy Alliance, which seeks to shape U.S. drug policy.

"You never know if a fentanyl test strip can keep some-

one alive long enough so they can make that decision for themselves," she said.

The CDC says any drug that dissolves in water can be tested. The strip is dipped in the solution for about 15 seconds, set out a few minutes, and is positive for fentanyl if a single pink line appears. Two pink lines is a negative result.

The strips can often be obtained from advocacy groups, local and state health departments, or purchased online.

Where strips are illegal, the push to change the law continues.

In Kansas, lawmakers debated until April whether to legalize the strips. But there was never any debate for Kansas mother Brandy Harris, who lost her 21-year-old son Sebastian Sheahan to a fentanyl overdose in April 2022. Addicted since age 13, he was first prescribed opioids after being hit by a truck.

Friends and family knew Sheahan as "big-hearted" and "goofy" with a soft spot for abused animals. He was open about his addiction issues and had been clean three years before he died after a relapse.

Harris believes her son would still be alive if he'd had test strips showing what he was ingesting. "I do believe that if these were available, that at least one person would be saved," Harris said. "And that is the main goal — at least one person."

Kansas' governor recently signed a bipartisan bill decriminalizing the strips starting July 1.

Montana and other states are considering similar legislation. Republican Gov. Greg Abbott of Texas recently dropped opposition to decriminalizing the strips, citing a "better understanding" of how they prevent opioid deaths.

pore of adoptees.

Most were placed with white parents in the United States and Europe during the 1970s and '80s. South

Korea was then ruled by a succession of military dictatorships, which were focused on economic growth and saw adoptions as a tool

to reduce the number of mouths to feed, erase the "social problem" of unwed mothers and deepen ties with the democratic West.

Smoky haze blanketing US, Canada could last for days

NEW YORK (AP)—On air quality maps, purple signifies the worst of it. In reality, it's a thick, hazardous haze that's disrupting daily life for millions of people across the U.S. and Canada, blotting out skylines and turning skies orange.

And with weather systems expected to hardly budge, the smoky blanket billowing from wildfires in Quebec and Nova Scotia and sending plumes of fine particulate matter as far away as North Carolina should persist into Thursday and possibly the weekend.

That means at least another day, or more, of a dystopian-style detour that's chased players from ballfields, actors from Broadway stages, delayed thousands of flights and sparked a resurgence in mask wearing and remote work — all while raising concerns about the health effects of prolonged exposure to such bad air.

The weather system that's driving the great Canadian-American smoke out — a low-pressure system over Maine and Nova Scotia — "will probably be hanging around at least for the next few days," U.S. National Weather Service meteorologist Bryan Ramsey said.

"Conditions are likely to remain unhealthy, at least until the wind direction changes or

the fires get put out," Ramsey said. "Since the fires are raging — they're really large — they're probably going to continue for weeks. But it's really just going to be all about the wind shift."

Across the eastern U.S., officials warned residents to stay inside and limit or avoid outdoor activities again Thursday, extending "Code Red" air quality alerts in some places for a third-straight day as forecasts showed winds continuing to push smoke-filled air south.

In Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser ordered schools to cancel outdoor recess, sports and field trips Thursday. In suburban Philadelphia, officials set up an emergency shelter so people living outside can take refuge from the haze.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said the state was making a million N95 masks — the kind prevalent at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic — available at state facilities, including 400,000 in New York City. She also urged residents to stay put.

"You don't need to go out and take a walk. You don't need to push the baby in the stroller," Hochul said Wednesday night. "This is not a safe time to do that."

The message may be get-

ting through. So far, officials said Wednesday, New York City has yet to see an uptick in 911 calls related to respiratory issues and cardiac arrests.

More than 400 blazes burning across Canada have left 20,000 people displaced. The U.S. has sent more than 600 firefighters and equipment to Canada. Other countries are also helping.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spoke to President Joe Biden by phone on Wednesday. Trudeau's office said he thanked Biden for his support and that both leaders "acknowledged the need to work together to address the devastating impacts of climate change."

Canadian officials say this is shaping up to be the country's worst wildfire season ever. It started early on drier-than-usual ground and accelerated quickly. Smoke from the blazes has been lapping into the U.S. since last month but intensified with recent fires in Quebec, where about 100 were considered out of control Wednesday.

"I can taste the air," Dr. Ken Strumpf said in a Facebook post from Syracuse, New York, where the sky took on the colorful nickname of the local university: Orange.

Asia

S. Korean probe to look into 237 more foreign adoptions

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's Truth and Reconciliation Commission said Thursday it will investigate 237 more cases of South Korean adoptees who suspect their family origins were manipulated to facilitate their adoptions in Europe and the United States.

The new cases in the commission's expanded inquiry into South Korea's foreign adoption boom involve adoptees in 11 nations including the United States, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden who were adopted from 1960 to 1990. More than 300 adoptees from Europe, North America and Australia filed applications last year demanding their cases be investigated.

The commission said most of the applicants claim their adoptions were based on falsified records that laundered their status or origin to ensure their adoptability and expedite custody transfers across borders. Some applicants asked

the commission to look into abuse they say they experienced at South Korean orphanages or under the care of their foreign adoptive parents.

When the commission said it would investigate the first 34 cases in December, it said the records of many adoptees sent to the West had clearly been manipulated and falsely described them as orphans or faked their identities by borrowing the details of a third person.

The commission's potential findings could allow adoptees to take legal actions against agencies or the government, which would otherwise be difficult because South Korean civil courts put the burden of proof entirely on plaintiffs, who often lack information and resources.

About 200,000 South Koreans, mostly girls, were adopted to the West in the past six decades, creating what's believed to be the world's largest diaspora of adoptees.

Most were placed with white parents in the United States and Europe during the 1970s and '80s. South Korea was then ruled by a succession of military dictatorships, which were focused on economic growth and saw adoptions as a tool to reduce the number of mouths to feed,

erase the "social problem" of unwed mothers and deepen ties with the democratic West.

The military governments implemented special laws aimed at promoting foreign adoptions that in practice allowed adoption agencies to bypass proper child relinquishment practices as they sent

thousands of children to the West year after year during the adoptions' heyday.

Most adoptees were registered by agencies as abandoned orphans found abandoned on the streets, although they frequently had relatives who could be easily identified or found. That practice often

makes their roots difficult or impossible to trace.

It wasn't until 2013 that South Korea's government required foreign adoptions to go through family courts, ending a decadeslong policy that allowed agencies to dictate child relinquishments and international transfers of custodies.

Ex-PH senator who opposed deadly drug campaign bail request rejected

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine court rejected on Wednesday a request for bail by a former opposition senator and justice secretary who criticized then-President Rodrigo Duterte's deadly crackdown on illegal drugs and instead was accused by his administration of drug dealing and was jailed more than six years ago.

U.S. and European legislators have demanded the release of former Sen. Leila de Lima, 63, currently the Philippines' most prominent prisoner, especially after she was taken hostage last year by three Muslim militants in their failed attempt to escape from prison.

Manila Regional Trial Court Presiding Judge Romeo Buenaventura rejected de Lima's argument in her request for bail that prosecutors failed to

prove that she conspired with codefendants and received payoffs from drug dealing in the national penitentiary when she served as justice secretary and wielded control over the country's prisons.

"This court is convinced that there is great probability that the crime charged has been committed and that the accused are the agents thereof," Buenaventura said in his ruling.

The hostage-taking of de Lima in a detention center in the main camp of the Philippine National Police was "an isolated occurrence," the court said.

The opposition leader also cited her poor health in her request for bail. The court said she could always ask the court for a furlough to seek medical treatment.

De Lima has been detained

since 2017 on drug charges she says were fabricated by Duterte and his officials to stop her from pursuing a Senate investigation into allegations of widespread extrajudicial killings under his campaign against illegal drugs, which left thousands of mostly poor suspects dead when he was mayor of southern Davao city and president starting in 2016.

There had been expectations that de Lima could be freed on bail under Duterte's successor, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., after she was cleared in two other drug-related cases after a number of witnesses recanted their allegations against her.

De Lima's lawyers said they would appeal the decision and criticized the prosecutor's use of testimony from criminals against her.

"We're hoping that in our

motion for reconsideration, the court will appreciate our position that the testimonies of convicted criminals will never be acceptable or could be trusted," they said in a statement.

Human Rights Watch said the court decision "prolongs the injustice committed against her since more than six years ago."

"This flies in the face of her previous court acquittal in two cases which clearly showed the political nature of her persecution," Carlos Conde of HRW said in a statement.

The drug killings under Duterte sparked an International Criminal Court investigation as a possible crime against humanity. His turbulent six-year term ended in June 2016 and he was succeeded by Marcos, whose running mate, Duterte's daughter, won the vice presidency.

Pakistan urged to stop arresting Afghan refugees after 250 detained recently

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Afghanistan urged Pakistan on Wednesday to stop arresting Afghan refugees, after 250 were detained by counterterrorism officials and other agencies for not having travel documents.

Millions of Afghans fled to Pakistan during the 1979-1989 Soviet occupation of their country, creating one of the world's largest refugee populations. Since then, Pakistan has been hosting Afghans, urging them to register with the United Nations and local authorities to avoid risk of deportation.

Afghanistan's embassy in Islamabad said the ongoing apprehension of refugees in the capital, the garrison city of Rawalpindi and neighboring areas persists.

A diplomatic delegation met police to discuss the issue and learned that law enforcement officials have detained 250 refugees in recent days, including those with U.N.-backed documents giving temporary legal stay in Pakistan and freedom of movement.

The embassy said it is working toward clarifying the legal status of the detained Afghans and expediting their release.

"The Govt of I.R of Pak is urged to cease the arrest of Afg refugees & officially address its concerns, as it can adversely impact bilateral re-

lations btw the two nations," it said in a tweet.

The embassy also confirmed that a female athlete, Arzoo Ahmadi, was briefly detained in southern Sindh province. She was in Pakistan taking part in a martial arts event and was arrested by police on Tuesday morning for not having travel documents. It was reported that she was taken to a women's shelter and later released.

More than 1 million registered Afghan refugees live in Pakistan, although the numbers entering the country leaped after the Taliban swept back to power in Afghanistan in August 2021.

Over 100,000 Afghans have arrived in Pakistan to avoid persecution at home, although the Taliban have announced a pardon and urged them not to leave the country.

Last December, images of locked up Afghan children in a Karachi prison caused outrage. They were among at least 1,200 Afghan nationals detained in multiple raids for entering the southern port city without valid travel documents.

The detentions underscored the strained relations between the two neighbors. Clashes have erupted at border towns and both countries accuse each other of not doing enough to combat militancy.



Detained ex-senator Leila de Lima reacts as she goes out of the Muntinlupa trial court to attend her trial on May 12, 2023 in Muntinlupa, Philippines.

AP

World

Flooding from dam break strands hundreds in Ukraine

» Leaves thousands without drinking water

KHERSON, Ukraine (AP)—Authorities rushed to rescue hundreds of people stranded on rooftops and supply drinking water to areas flooded by a collapsed dam in southern Ukraine on Wednesday, in a growing humanitarian and ecological disaster along a river that forms part of the front line in the 15-month war.

The collapse of the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam and emptying of its reservoir on the Dnieper River added to the misery the region has suffered for more than a year from artillery and missile attacks.

With humanitarian and ecological disasters still unfolding, it's already clear that tens of thousands of people have been deprived of drinking water, many are homeless, crops are ruined, land mines have been displaced, and the stage is set for long-term electricity shortages.

Some residents of Russia-occupied areas hit by high water complained that help was slow in arriving, with some stranded on roofs and streets passable only by boat in scenes

more like natural disasters than wars. Others refused to leave.

The first report of casualties from the disaster emerged, with a mayor reporting three dead. At least 4,000 people have been evacuated from both the Russian and Ukrainian-controlled sides of the river, officials said, with the true scale of the disaster yet to emerge in an affected area that was home to more than 60,000 people. Russia-appointed authorities in the occupied parts of the Kherson region reported 15,000 flooded homes.

The dam and reservoir, essential for fresh water and irrigation for southern Ukraine, lies in the Kherson region that Moscow illegally annexed in September and has occupied for the past year. The reservoir is also critical for water supplies to the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia illegally annexed in 2014.

Ukraine holds the Dnieper's western bank, while Russia controls the low-lying eastern side, which is more vulnerable to flooding.

The high water could wash



away this season's crops, while the depleted Kakhovka reservoir would deny adequate irrigation for years. The reservoir's loss also complicates any efforts to rebuild and restart the

destroyed hydroelectric power station and ensure cooling water for any future attempts to restart the shut-down Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

A day after the dam's col-

lapse, the cause remained unclear, with both sides blaming each other. Some experts cited wartime damage and neglect, although others argued that Russia might have destroyed it for military reasons. Either way, concluded analyst Michael Kofman, "Russia is responsible, either by virtue of action or by virtue of the fact that it controlled the dam."

"It's going to lead to lasting damage to agriculture, provision of drinkable water. And it's going to wipe out entire communities," Kofman — who is with the Center for Naval Analyses, a U.S. research group — told "PBS NewsHour."

Many residents had fled the region because of the fighting, but clear estimates of those remaining weren't available.

Pope Francis has scar tissue removed, hernia repaired

ROME (AP)—Pope Francis underwent successful surgery Wednesday to remove intestinal scar tissue and repair a hernia in his abdominal wall, the latest maladies to befall the 86-year-old pontiff who had part of his colon removed two years ago.

The Vatican said there were no complications during the three-hour surgery, which required Francis to be under general anesthesia. The pontiff was expected to remain at Rome's Gemelli hospital for several days, and all papal audiences were canceled through June 18.

Dr. Sergio Alfieri, director of abdominal and endocrine sciences at Gemelli, who also performed Francis' 2021 colon surgery, said the operation was successful. A short time later, the pope was awake, alert and even joking.

"When will we do the third one?" he quoted Francis as saying.

During the operation, doctors removed adhesions, or internal scarring, on the intestine that had caused a partial blockage, as well as pain in recent months. Alfieri revealed that Francis had undergone previous undisclosed abdominal surgeries sometime before 2013 in Argentina, which had also caused scarring.

To repair the hernia that

had formed over a previous scar, a prosthetic mesh was placed in the abdominal wall, Alfieri said. He added that the pope was suffering from no other pathologies, that the tissue removed was benign and that after he recovers, he should be fine.

A feared protrusion, or bulging of the intestine through the hernia tear, was apparently not found.

"It appears they operated on him in a timely fashion with no compromise to his intestine," said Dr. Walter Longo, chief of colon and rectal surgery at Yale University School of Medicine, who did not participate in the surgery and commented after consulting the Vatican statement on the procedure.

Hernia operations are rarely performed on an emergency basis, and Alfieri said the surgery had been planned. While unannounced publicly, it appeared timed so Francis would have ample time for recovery ahead of a busy travel schedule later this summer.

At three hours, the pope's procedure was considerably longer than the standard 60 to 90 minutes doctors say a hernia operation usually takes, but Alfieri noted that the scar tissue from the previous surgeries was completely removed.

Spending more time under

anesthesia, coupled with being on a ventilator for so long — in someone who has lost part of one lung as a young man — could put the pontiff at risk of breathing complications or a longer-than-expected recovery time, experts said.

Francis remained in charge of the Vatican and the 1.3-billion strong Catholic Church, even while unconscious and in the hospital, according to canon law.

In July 2021, Francis spent 10 days at Gemelli to remove 33 centimeters (13 inches) of his large intestine. In an interview with The Associated Press in January, Francis said the diverticulosis, or bulges in his intestinal wall, that prompted that surgery had returned.

After that surgery, Francis lamented that he hadn't responded well to the general anesthetic. That reaction in part explained his refusal to have surgery to repair strained knee ligaments that have forced him to use a wheelchair and walker for over a year.

However, Alfieri said Francis had no adverse reactions to the anesthesia in 2021 or Wednesday.

"Clearly no one likes to be operated on and put to sleep because the moment we're put under, we lose consciousness," he told an evening news

conference at the hospital with the Vatican spokesman by his side. "But there was no physiological problem two years ago or today."

Dr. Manish Chand, a professor of surgery at University College London who specializes in colorectal surgery, said the greatest issue afterwards would be pain management and making sure the wound heals properly.

"In the first six weeks after this type of surgery, you're at risk of getting a recurrence again," he said. To avoid that, patients are advised not to do anything strenuous.

Dr. Robin Phillips, an emeritus professor of colorectal surgery at Imperial College London, pointed out that abdominal surgery can also compromise lung function.

The Argentine pope had part of one lung removed when he was a young man. In late March, Francis spent three days at Gemelli for bronchitis and was treated with intravenous antibiotics. He emerged April 1 saying "Still alive!"

"I suspect they are doing it now because they are worried it might become more complicated and result in an emergency operation, which would carry an even bigger risk than leaving it alone or operating now," Phillips said.

Main suspect in disappearance of Holloway to be extradited to US

LIMA, Peru (AP)—The main suspect in the 2005 disappearance of U.S. student Natalee Holloway is expected to be handed over to U.S. officials in Peru and flown to the United States on Thursday, roughly a month after both countries agreed on his extradition.

Joran van der Sloot is wanted in the U.S. on one count each of extortion and wire fraud, the only charges to have ever linked the Dutch citizen to Holloway's disappearance on the Caribbean island of Aruba.

His extradition moved forward after a Peruvian judge on Tuesday affirmed the government's decision to temporarily transfer custody to U.S. authorities.

Van der Sloot has been serving a 28-year sentence for the murder of a Peruvian woman. Authorities over the weekend moved him from a maximum-security prison in the Andes to a detention facility in the capital, Lima, from which he was due to be taken to the airport at some point Thursday.

It was not immediately clear when he would make his first court appearance in the U.S.

Holloway, who lived in suburban Birmingham, Alabama, was 18 when she vanished during a trip with classmates to Aruba. She was last seen leaving a bar with van der Sloot, who was a student at an international school on the island.

Van der Sloot was identified as a suspect and detained weeks later, along with two Surinamese brothers.

Holloway's body was never found, and no charges were filed in the case. A judge later declared Holloway dead.

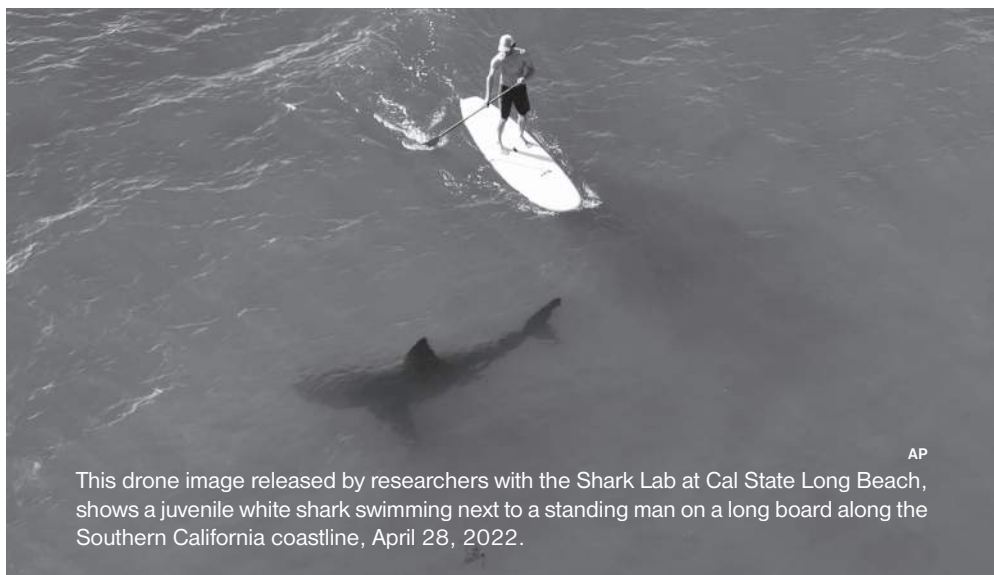
The federal charges filed in Alabama against van der Sloot stem from an accusation that he tried to extort the Holloway family in 2010, promising to lead them to her body in exchange for hundreds of thousands of dollars. A grand jury indicted him that year on one count each of wire fraud and extortion.

Holloway's mysterious disappearance sparked years of news coverage and countless true-crime podcasts.

Off The Wall

JUST KEEP SWIMMING

Study: Sharks and humans can peaceably share ocean



This drone image released by researchers with the Shark Lab at Cal State Long Beach, shows a juvenile white shark swimming next to a standing man on a long board along the Southern California coastline, April 28, 2022.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—You're gonna need a bigger ... drone.

That's right, "Jaws" fans. Researchers at California State University, Long Beach-based Shark Lab used drones to study juvenile white sharks along the Southern California coastline and how close they swim to humans in the water.

Turns out, it's pretty close. Almost within the bite radius.

Still, it's safe. There were no reported shark bites in any of the 26 beaches surveyed between January 2019 and March 2021, according

to the Shark Lab.

The juvenile white sharks mostly grouped together in two locations—in southern Santa Barbara County and central San Diego County—the researchers discovered through roughly 1,500 drone flights over the two years. Adult white sharks are generally solitary animals.

In those two spots, the juvenile sharks swam near humans on 97% of the days surveyed, the researchers wrote in a paper published Friday. The sharks often swam within 50 yards (45.72 meters) of the wave

breaks—closest to surfers and stand-up paddle boarders.

"Most of the time water users didn't even know the sharks were there, but we could easily see them from the air," said Patrick Rex, a Cal State Long Beach graduate student who led the study.

The researchers confirmed that surfers, swimmers and sharks can coexist peacefully but "we never expected to see so many encounters every day with no incidents" of bites, said Chris Lowe, a marine biology professor and the Shark Lab's director.

Poland reverts to historic name for Russia's Kaliningrad

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Poland is reverting to using its historical name for Kaliningrad, the Russian city and administrative region that sits on its border.

From now on, it will be designated on Polish maps as Krolewicz, based on the recommendation of the government commission for geographic names abroad.

The Kremlin has reacted angrily: spokesperson Dmi-

try Peskov called it a "process bordering on insanity," going beyond Russophobia.

The city, formerly known as Koenigsberg, was ceded from Germany to the Soviet Union after World War II. In 1946, it was renamed Kaliningrad, after Mikhail Kalinin, one of the leaders of the Bolshevik Revolution.

The Polish authorities point out that Kalinin was one of six Soviet officials who ordered the

execution of more than 21,000 Polish prisoners of war at Katyn and elsewhere in 1940.

They said the current name was artificial, lacking any connection to the city or the region, but the centuries-old name of Krolewicz was part of Poland's cultural heritage.

There has been some talk in Russia about changing the city's name back, but there are no such plans currently.

months in view of the man's lengthy criminal record and an existing suspended sentence. But judges said they would make an exception and classify the latest crimes as "less serious offenses" due to the man's particular circumstances and recent health problems. Dpa quoted the presiding judge telling the defendant that it was his "very last warning."

Yellowhammer Cookie is Alabama's state cookie

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—Alabama now has an official state cookie: The Yellowhammer Cookie. Gov.

Kay Ivey on Friday signed legislation naming the confection created by a Montgomery fourth-grader as the official state cookie. Students at Montgomery's Trinity Presbyterian School came up with the idea of a state cookie. Fourth-grader Mary Claire Cook submitted the winning recipe, which includes pecans, peanut butter and honey, WSFA-TV reported. Cook brought a batch of the cookies to Ivey for the bill-signing ceremony. Alabama has a long list of official state emblems and symbols, including a state vegetable, nut, amphibian and spirit.

Science & Technology

Human cousins may have buried their dead

NEW YORK (AP)—An ancient human cousin may have buried its dead and carved symbols into cave walls, surprising findings for a creature with a small brain.

Fossil remains of the species—named *Homo naledi*—were uncovered in underground caves in South Africa a decade ago. Now, researchers say they've found evidence that the species was capable of complex behavior that so far has only been seen in those with bigger brains.

"We are facing a remark-

able discovery here" for a species with brains one-third the size of humans, said anthropologist Lee Berger, who led the research funded by the National Geographic Society, where he now works.

Berger and colleagues describe their findings in studies posted online Monday. The research has not been peer-reviewed yet and some outside scientists think more evidence is needed to challenge what we know about how humans evolved their complex thinking.

"There's still a lot to un-

cover," said Rick Potts, director of the Smithsonian's Human Origins Program who was not involved in the research.

H. naledi is a pretty new addition to the family tree of hominins, which includes our direct ancestors and other extinct relatives who walked on two legs. Berger and his team announced the species in 2015, after a tip from local spelunkers led them to the Rising Star cave system near Johannesburg where they uncovered fossils from at least 15 individuals who lived around 300,000 years ago.

In Celebration of His New Life

Felix Aguon Sasamoto

April 27, 1943 - June 2, 2023

Mass of Intention is being celebrated each evening at
6:00 pm at San Roque Church.

Funeral and memorial services will be held on Saturday,
June 10, 2023 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral.
Responso, holy rosary, viewing and last respects will
begin at 8:00 am. Mass of Christian Burial will be
celebrated at 11:00 am. Interment services will be held
at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase,

Soledad Babauta Sasamoto,
Children & Family

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

'Very last warning' for 82-year-old German convicted of dealing drugs

BERLIN (AP)—A German court says it is giving an 82-year-old man a "last warning" to avoid jail after he was found guilty of drug dealing, despite 24 previous convictions. The retired seaman, who said he wanted to improve his meagre 800-euro (\$855) monthly pension by selling marijuana, was handed a suspended sentence by a court in the northern town of Aurich on Monday. German news agency dpa reported that prosecutors had asked the court to impose a prison term of 34

Life & Style

Greek temple reveals offerings left by ancient worshippers

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Archaeologists excavating a hill-top sanctuary on the Aegean Sea island of Kythnos have discovered “countless” pottery offerings left by ancient worshippers over the centuries, Greece’s Culture Ministry said Wednesday.

A ministry statement said the finds from work this year included more than 2,000 intact or almost complete clay figurines, mostly of women and children but also some of male actors, as well as of tortoises,

lions, pigs and birds.

Several ceremonial pottery vessels that were unearthed are linked with the worship of Demeter, the ancient Greek goddess of agriculture, and her daughter Persephone, to whom the excavated sanctuary complex was dedicated.

The seaside site of Vryokastro on Kythnos was the ancient capital of the island, inhabited without break between the 12th century B.C. and the 7th A.D., when it was abandoned for a stronger position during a pe-



In this photo released by the Greek Culture Ministry on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, an ancient clay figurine of a woman among fragments of vases excavated from the remains of an ancient sanctuary on the Aegean Sea island of Kythnos.

riod of pirate raids.

The artifacts came from the scant ruins of the two small temples, a long building close by that may have served as a temple store-room and a nearby pit where older offerings were buried to make space for new ones. The sanctuary was in use for about a thousand years, starting from the 7th century B.C.

The excavation by Greece’s University of Thessaly and the Culture Ministry also found luxury pottery imported from other parts of Greece, ornate lamps and fragments of ritual vases used in the worship of Demeter and Persephone at Eleusis, an ancient Athens suburb.

Haruki Murakami says pandemic, war in Ukraine create walls that divide people

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese writer Haruki Murakami says walls are increasingly built and dividing people and countries after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic fueled fear and skepticism.

“With feelings of suspicion replacing mutual trust, walls are continually being erected around us,” Murakami said in late April at Wellesley College. That speech, “Writing Fiction in the Time of Pandemic and War,” was released Wednesday in The Shincho Monthly literary magazine published by Shinchosha Co.

“Everybody seems to be confronted with a choice—to hide behind the walls, preserving safety and the status quo or, knowing the risks, to emerge beyond the walls in search of a freer value system,” he said.

Like the protagonist in his new novel.

“The City and Its Uncertain Walls” was released in April in Japan and an English translation is expected in 2024. The protagonist, as Murakami de-



Murakami

scribed, faces a tough choice between two worlds: an isolated walled city of tranquility with no desire or suffering, and the real world beyond the walls filled with pain and desire and contradictions.

The novel is based on a story he wrote for a magazine soon after becoming a novelist but was never published in book form. He said he knew it had important ideas and put it aside because he wanted to rewrite it.

Some 40 years later, he discovered “this tale fits perfectly with the age we live in now.”

Murakami started rewriting the book in March 2020, soon after COVID-19 began spreading around the world, and finished it two years later, as the war in Ukraine passed its one-year mark.

“The two big events combined and changed the world in dramatic ways,” he said.

Bronze statue of noted American author Willa Cather unveiled in US Capitol

WASHINGTON (AP)—Willa Cather, the Pulitzer Prize-winning American author renowned for her portrayal of the lives of pioneer settlers in the U.S. Heartland, was honored Wednesday with the unveiling of a bronze statue in her likeness

in the U.S. Capitol’s National Statuary Hall.

The statue’s creator, Littleton Alston, a professor of sculpture at Creighton University, is the first Black artist to have work represented in the national collection.

Cather, whose works in-

clude “My Ántonia” and “O Pioneers,” spent her young years in Red Cloud, Nebraska, and graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1895. She won the Pulitzer Prize for the novel “One of Ours.”

U.S. Rep. Adrian Smith, a Republican from Nebraska,

noted that Cather was a trailblazer in the literary world who has earned a lasting place among the great American writers.

And U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer of Nebraska said Cather’s fiction “truly feels like it grew from the soil of Nebraska.”

Tupac Shakur receives Walk of Fame star

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tupac Shakur received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Wednesday, just several days before the hip-hop legend’s birthday.

The late rapper’s sister, Sekyiwa “Set” Shakur, accepted the star on behalf of their family. During her speech, she shed tears while describing her older brother’s vision of being celebrated with a star in Hollywood.

“From the first time he stepped foot on this stage of the Apollo Theater at 13 years old, before anyone recognized his name, he knew he had the dream to have a star here on the Walk of Fame,” said Sekyiwa Shakur, who often took deep breaths between sentences to collect herself.

The Walk of Fame said Shakur was selected to receive a star in 2013, but the organization waited for his family

and estate to select a date.

Shakur was given the 2,758th star on the Walk of Fame. His birthday is June 16.

“Now we gather here today to unveil Tupac’s star not only paying tribute to his contributions to the music industry, but also speaks volumes to the lasting impact he’s had on this world,” she continued. “Today, we’re not just honoring a star in the ground. But we’re honoring the work and the passion that he’s put into making his dreams come true.”

Shakur, one of the most prolific figures in hip-hop, died in 1996 from gunshot wounds at the age of 25. His professional music career only lasted five years, but he sold more than 75 million records worldwide, including the diamond-certified album “All Eyez on Me,” which was packed with hits including “California Love (Remix),” “I Ain’t Mad at Cha” and “How Do U Want It.” He was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2017.

Zonked boyfriend seems content with status quo

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a man for more than two years, and I thought we had a future together. I’m 57, divorced, no kids. He’s 58, divorced and has two grown children. At first, he said he was living with his parents so he could take care of his dad, who had been very ill. But it has been more than three years now!

I put bids on four different houses in his parents’ neighborhood, but lost all of them. It seems the universe is not in favor of my owning a home and being closer to his family. Maybe all of this is for the best. He smokes marijuana daily, and I’m sure this is part (if not all) of the problem. His motivation for doing anything is very low.

I’m often frustrated with his unreliability, lateness and lack of communication. I do enjoy being with him, and we get along great when we are together. But nothing is CHANGING. I want a future (and a home) with someone at this point in my life. Should I keep waiting and hoping, or move on and end it with him completely? I’m struggling with the decision. I have tried to break up with him multiple times, but we always wind up together again.

ANXIOUS IN ARIZONA

DEAR ANXIOUS: I am struggling with whether to tell you what to do, which is what you are asking, or help you to make up your own mind and take responsibility for your decision. Start by making a list of what your goals are, in order of

importance. Next, write down how many of them you have achieved during the time you have been with this stoner. How many of your goals match his?

He may not be a bad person, but he appears to be comfortable with living with his parents for the foreseeable future. I understand that you like hanging out with him, and if that is all you want from him, then it’s fine. However, if it isn’t, then tell him you need more than what he has to offer, and move on—and this time, make it stick.

DEAR ABBY: When our mom died, one of her three siblings took selfie photos of themselves with her in the casket. They did it the whole time at the funeral. We were taught by our mom and grandma never to take photos of someone in their casket. Several family members were beyond shocked, as were we.

Is there a polite way to keep people from taking photos of the deceased? Should you make it clear that no cameras of any kind will be permitted, and that failure to comply will have you removed? And should the family have to deal with this, or is it something the funeral home should handle for the family?

JUST PLAIN MORBID

DEAR JUST PLAIN MORBID: Not everyone deals with death the same way. Taking photos of the deceased in their

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

casket is not unheard of, and may be customary in some cultures. (It may also be a useful tool for grieving.)

Although the idea of taking “selfies” at a funeral may seem over the top to you, your aunts or uncles should not have been prevented from doing so. However, if you want to ensure no pictures are taken in subsequent funerals for immediate family members, make that clear to the funeral director BEFORE the event.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

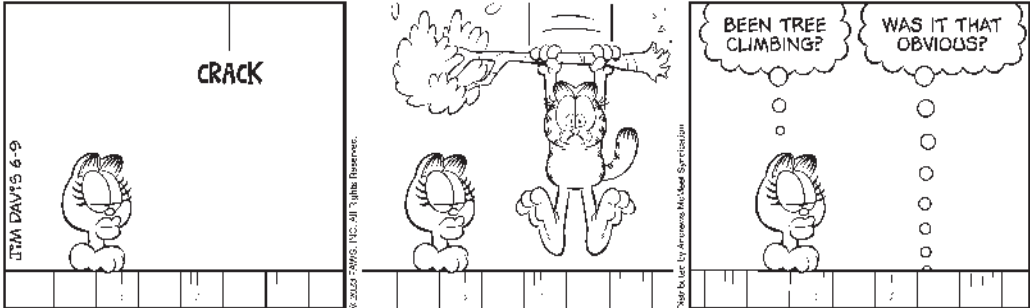
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

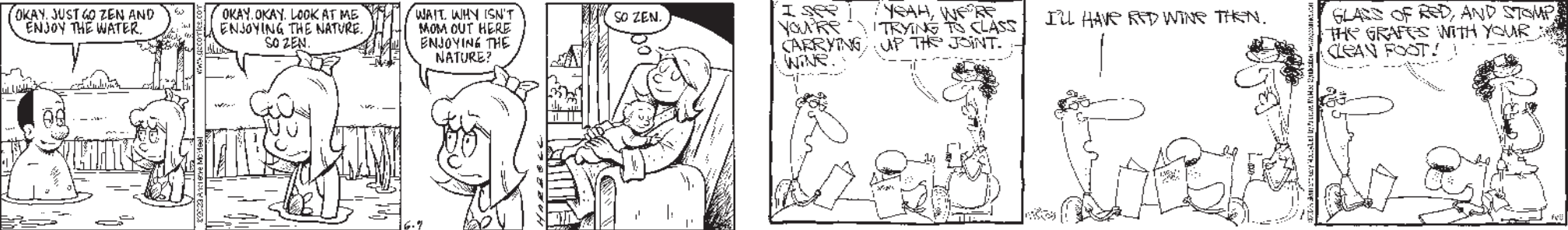


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 36 Ballet bends 37 Brandy TV series 39 Time line period 40 Soup cooker 41 Mirage 45 Half a sextet 48 View from Dublin 50 Really, really 51 Brooklyn NBA team 52 Chang's brother 53 CNN's Blitz 54 Aussie greeting 55 Dawn goddess

DOWN 1 Pedestal 2 Genesis brother 3 Authentic 4 "Brrr!" 5 Maestro Zubin — 6 Cash dispenser 7 Area of London 8 Engine sound 9 Calendar abbr. 10 Cardinal cap 11 Jargon suffix 16 Iranian money 20 Tic-tac-toe loser 23 Jai — 24 Traditional tales 25 Doctrines 26 Poetry contest 27 Roman censor 28 Curved molding 29 Chest bone 32 Usher's job 33 News bulletin 35 One of the five W's 36 Overly proper 38 Parody 39 Madonna role 42 "Understood" 43 Wine (Pref.) 44 Kvetches 45 Road rescue 46 Sorority letter 47 Oahu or Maui (Abbr.) 49 Roulette bet

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-9

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Natalie Portman, 42; Johnny Depp, 60; Aaron Sorkin, 62; Michael J. Fox, 62.

Happy Birthday: Pay attention to detail, leave no room for error and proceed confidently. Question anything that sounds far-fetched to ensure you don't get caught up in a scam or lie that can hurt your reputation. Form alliances with experts and people you respect. Take a close look at contracts and documents before you commit. If you choose quality over quantity, you'll end up saving money. Trust your instincts. Your numbers are 5, 11, 18, 26, 33, 42, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stick to the truth and do your best to make a difference. Give others the reinforcement they need to do and be their best. You'll gain popularity. Choose entertainment that is exhilarating and that you can share with someone you love. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep your plans neat and tidy. Set yourself up for success and popularity. Have a budget and plan in place before you begin your journey. Get to know your opponents before you enter a competition. Don't be afraid to make a move. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take the high road, regardless of the path others choose. Embrace self-improvement and increase your knowledge and qualifications to meet personal or professional demands. Let love flourish, and share your long-term intentions. Use your imagination to bring about positive change. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take a novel approach to work and money. Update your skills and qualifications to suit what's trend-

ing in the job market. Get in touch with people who can offer insight into a field that interests you. ***** Focus on gaining respect and stability.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Anger will disrupt your day. Give yourself a chance to rethink your next move, and try to keep the peace, regardless of what others do or say. Overindulgence will leave you at a loss and in trouble with someone you love. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't ignore an opportunity to learn something new. An open discussion with someone doing something you want to pursue will give you the information you require to make your dream come true. A commitment will lead to new beginnings and friendships. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Add to your qualifications. Update your resume and take an interest in something that is trending. Staying informed will keep you current and enable you to move up the ladder quickly. Invest more time and money in yourself, and something good will transpire. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Spend more time at home. Make your place comfortable and convenient. Get involved in something you find stimulating and innovative. Branching out in a new direction will lead to a meeting with someone who shares your sentiments and expectations. Protect your health. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Avoid a run-in with someone you need and want in your corner. Working alongside others will be better than fighting your way up the ladder. Be suspicious of anyone offering something too good to

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY



be true. **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stop dreaming and start doing. You have more going for you than you realize, and with a bit of ingenuity, you can grow your money and home more to your needs and liking. Don't let anyone take advantage of you. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Set boundaries and bypass conversations that can easily lead to an argument. Focus more on personal improvements, health and fitness, and you'll feel good about your accomplishments. Make romance a priority, and live in and enjoy the moment. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Manage your money sensibly. You may want to help someone, but paying for their mistakes won't help your situation. Changing how you handle your cash will lead to peace of mind and opportunities to pursue your goals. ***

Birthday Baby: You are comical, prompt and affectionate. You are reliable and respected.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects.

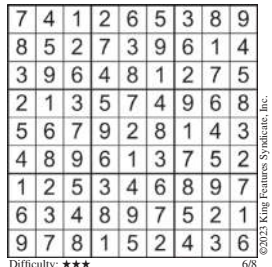
SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★★★★ 6/9
©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TIME TO CELEBRATE Solution: 7 letters

A E S N O O L L A B R U N C H
B N U T H A N K S G I V I N G
S A N C V P F E S T I V E T S
E C C I E R L D M G I F T S I
U H R H V B N A E N I W E I N
G R C H E E R I N G E R S L G
A I T H A L R A U S D M O J N
E S E R I A O O S B D I O A N N
L T F T I M E R A L P T E A O
L M F H A P P Y E R A S M D I
O A U R E T S A E T Y U U A S
C S B Y T R A P G C T C S M A
B I R T H D A Y S N N E I A C
C E L E B R A T E C E A C R C
H O U S E W A R M I N G D E O

© 2023 Andrews McMeel Syndication, Inc. www.wonderword.com 6/9
Address, Anniversary, Arrival, Bachelorette, Balloons, Barbecue, Birthdays, Brunch, Buffet, Casual, Celebrate, Champagne, Cheering, Christmas, Colleagues, Custom, Dance, Easter, Festive, Friends, Gifts, Happy, Housewarming, List, Meals, Menu, Music, Occasions, Party, Plans, Prepare, Ramadan, Sing, Thanksgiving, Time, Wine
Yesterday's Answer: San Mateo
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6460. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Jokic, Murray have triple-doubles, Nuggets beat Heat for 2-1 lead



MIAMI (AP)—Never had two players

from the same team had 30-point triple-doubles in the same game. Never in the regular season. Never in the playoffs. Certainly never in the NBA Finals.

Until now.

Nikola Jokic and Jamal Murray made history Wednesday night — and have the Denver Nuggets two wins away from making some real history as well.

Jokic and Murray became the first teammates in NBA Finals history to both record triple-doubles, and the Nuggets reclaimed the lead in the series by beating the Miami Heat 109-94 in Game 3.

“By far, their greatest performance as a duo in their seven years together,” Nuggets coach Michael Malone said, after his team moved two wins away from Denver’s first title.

Jokic finished with 32 points, 21 rebounds and 10 assists — the first such game in NBA Finals history, or at least the first since assists were tracked. Murray had 34 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists, getting the rebound he needed with 9 seconds remaining.

The Nuggets out-rebounded the Heat 58-33, and took a 2-1 lead. Game



Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) drives to the basket over Miami Heat forward Kevin Love (42) during the second half of Game 3 of the NBA Finals basketball game, Wednesday, June 7, 2023, in Miami.

4 is Friday in Miami.

“I’m just glad that we won the game,” Jokic said. “It was a big one for us because they won in our arena. We just didn’t want to go down 2-1.”

Jimmy Butler scored 28 points for Miami, and Bam Adebayo finished with 22 points and 17 rebounds. Caleb Martin added 10 points.

“We’ve got to come out with more energy and effort and that’s correctable,” Butler said. “That’s on us as a group.”

Jokic and Murray combined for 24 field goals; Miami had 34. Jokic and Murray combined for 31 rebounds; Miami had 33. Jokic and Murray combined for 20 assists; Miami had exactly that many.

Somehow, some way, the Heat know they need to find an answer before Friday.

“It’s not an easy task to do,” Butler said. “But if we want to win, we’re going to have to figure it out.”

Miami has been the comeback kings of these playoffs — seven rallies in games after trailing by at least 12 points. The Heat were down by 14 going into the fourth, and Malone reminded his club of Miami’s penchant for comebacks.

“First two games, they won the fourth quarter,” Malone said. “Tonight, we win the fourth quarter, we win the game.”

His team listened.

The lead eventually reached 21, the outcome never seriously in doubt, and Jokic looking very much like he’s back in cruise control. The Heat got within nine on a 3-pointer by Duncan Robinson with 1:22 left, but there was no epic finish for Miami. Murray and Jokic had the Nuggets too far ahead to get caught.

“You have to expect there to be elite talent in the finals,” Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. “And both those guys are elite-level talent.”

Officially, Jokic is now the seventh player to have two triple-doubles in the same

finals. Magic Johnson and LeBron James each did it in three different finals. Draymond Green, Wilt Chamberlain, Larry Bird and Butler all had one title series with two triple-doubles.

It was Jokic’s 10th triple-double of these playoffs, extending his single-season record, and he was unbothered by whatever Miami threw his way. He finished 12 for 21 from the floor, 7 for 8 from the line, playing 44 minutes.

“We were more locked in, more focused,” Jokic said.

Christian Braun was tremendous off the bench for the Nuggets, scoring 15 points on 7-for-8 shooting in 19 minutes. Aaron Gordon added 11 for Denver.

And afterward, they both marveled at what their stars did in Game 3.

“It’s greatness, man. It’s greatness,” Gordon said. “That’s a dynamic duo right there.”

Added Braun: “I would say that it’s what they do every game.”

Miami never led in the second half. A dunk by Adebayo put the Heat up 44-42 with 3:18 left in the half, before a 3-pointer by Murray represented the seventh and final lead change of the night. It was 53-48 at halftime, before Denver pushed the lead to double digits for the first time early in the third and wound up leading by as many as 19 later in that period.

The Heat stole home court by winning Game 2 in Denver, a game where Murray had a chance to force overtime with a 3-point try that missed at the end. The Nuggets now have the lead again, and there was no Game 2 hangover on Wednesday.

“Not just me,” Murray said. “Everybody bounced back.”

NBA coaches may soon get second challenge to use if 1st one is successful

MIAMI (AP)—NBA coaches may soon get to challenge two calls in a game instead of just one, the league revealed Wednesday.

The current rule gives coaches one challenge per game, whether they’re right or not. The league’s competition committee is weighing whether coaches should be rewarded with a second challenge opportunity to use later in the game if the first one is deemed successful.

“We feel like it’s an incremental movement that we would potentially like to see,” NBA President of Basketball Operations Byron Spruell said Wednesday in an appearance on ESPN. “There’s an appetite for it. We’ll see where it comes out.”

The NBA’s competition committee will discuss the matter further at its meeting Thursday in Miami. It would then have to go to the league’s Board of Governors, and tested in summer league before it would be officially implemented.

“I think that would be good,” Miami coach Erik

Spoelstra said before Game 3 of the NBA Finals on Wednesday, though he noted that he doesn’t know what the “unintended consequences” of such a change would be.

The league is also looking at ways to further implement technology on certain decisions — such as goaltending and out-of-bounds calls late in games. Any changes there would also have to get board approval and go through the traditional testing process before getting to the NBA.

“Now, over time, maybe those even become more automated, like you see in tennis, like you see in baseball, like you even see in soccer,” Spruell said on the ESPN appearance. “So, we’re excited by the innovation there and what it could potentially lead to, including for our referees, taking that focus off of those objective calls and letting them get to the more complex, more real-time and more judgment-type, subjective calls too, even shifting their focus.”

The league implemented the challenge starting with the 2019-20 season.

Heat, following similar script as Game 1, lose to Nuggets in Game 3

MIAMI (AP)—Those open looks Miami kept knocking down three nights earlier in Denver just wouldn’t go down back home.

Jimmy Butler and Bam Adebayo were a combined 10 of 30 in the paint, and too many other shooters were cold in a 109-94 loss Wednesday night that gave the Nuggets a 2-1 lead in the NBA Finals.

“I just missed some that I normally make,” said Butler, who finished with 28 points on 11-of-24 shooting. “Along with Bam, too, but we’re gonna continually take those, getting two feet in the paint. If you can get a shot up, get it up, and if you can’t, get it out to your shooters. I think we did a good job with that. Maybe we do have to do a better job, but those are the same shots that we’re gonna get next game,

and we’re expected to take and make those.”

After knocking down 17 3-pointers in Game 2, Miami made 11 of 34 shots from deep in Game 3. Duncan Robinson had three. Caleb Martin added a pair of back-to-back 3-pointers in the second quarter.

Despite getting the looks inside that they wanted, the Heat simply did not knock them down, resulting in a loss in which their fans, once roaring as loud as they could as they swirled white flags above their heads, were finding the exits before the final minutes.

Gabe Vincent shot 2 for 10 and Max Strus was 1 for 7, the starting guards combining to miss eight of their 10 attempts behind the arc.

Butler couldn’t seem to find the words to describe what went wrong, or why it was

such a far cry from their success in a tough road environment a few nights earlier.

“I don’t know. It just can’t happen,” Butler said. “It won’t happen again, and it starts with myself. I’ve got to lock in on the defensive end ... I think if I start playing and doing that, then everybody else has to follow suit.”

Miami made just 9 of 26 first-half attempts in the paint and finished the game shooting 37% from the field, compared to Denver’s 51.2.

“I thought offensively we actually did get a lot of opportunities in the paint,” said Miami coach Erik Spoelstra. “Yes, you have to credit their size and everything like that, but we’ve proven that we can finish in the paint when we’re at our best.”

Adebayo finished with 22

points and 17 rebounds but shot just 7 of 21 from the field.

The Nuggets pulled away in the third quarter — leading by as many as 19 — by accomplishing what the Heat couldn’t: They had 60 points in the paint to Miami’s 34. Denver only took 18 3-point attempts after taking 28 in Game 2 and 27 in Game 1.

“They pummeled us in the paint,” Spoelstra said. “They didn’t really have to shoot 3s. ... There wasn’t a need to space the floor. We didn’t offer much resistance.”

The Heat pulled within nine with 1:22 left thanks to a 3-pointer by Robinson but missed all of their shot attempts the rest of the way.

“Good win for us,” Denver coach Michael Malone said, “but we did not come down here to get one win.”

Arraez raises MLB-leading batting average to .403, Marlins beat Royals



M I A M I

(AP)—Luis Arraez singled twice to raise his major league-leading batting average to .403 and help the Miami Marlins beat the Kansas City Royals 6-1 on Wednesday night.

Jesús Sánchez homered, singled twice and had four RBI for the Marlins, who won their sixth straight. The consecutive three-game series sweeps over the Royals and Oakland Athletics are the first by the Marlins at home since winning six straight against Washington and Houston in 2008.

Marlins starter Edward Cabrera's one-run outing ended after throwing his warm-up pitches to begin the sixth. Manager Skip Schumaker and a Marlins trainer approached the mound and spoke with the right-hander, who was then removed.

Cabrera (5-4) gave up two hits, walked two, struck out four and hit a batter. Left-handers Steven Okert, Tanner Scott, Andrew Nardi and A.J. Puk relieved Cabrera and threw an inning each to complete the three-hitter.

Jordan Lyles (0-10) allowed five runs, six hits, walked one and struck out two.

REDS 8, DODGERS 6

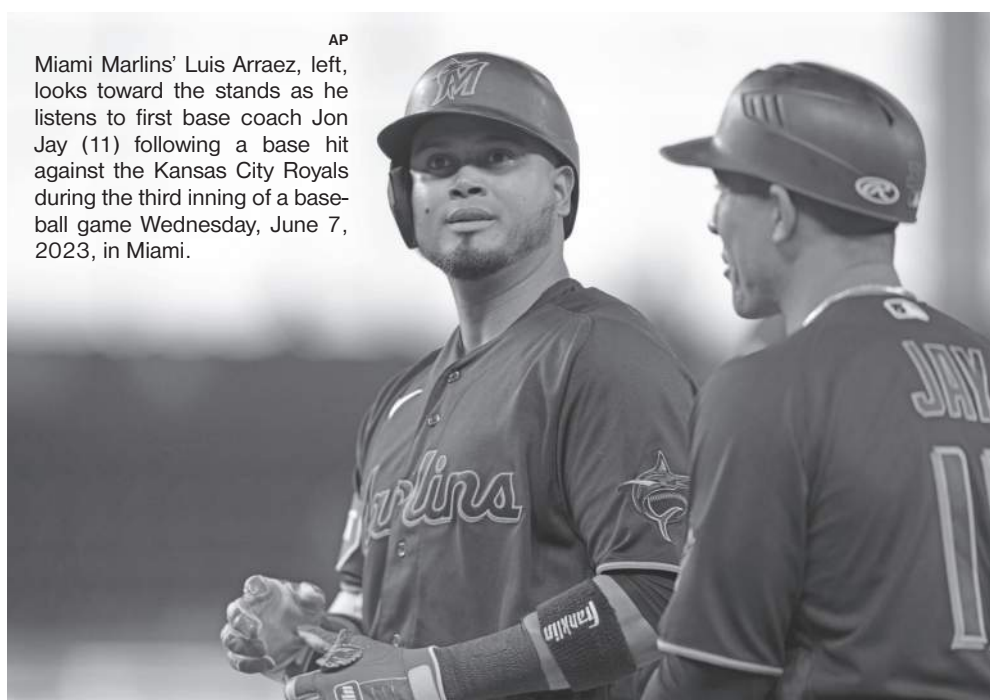
CINCINNATI (AP)—Elly De La Cruz hit a 458-foot drive for his first major league homer, Will Benson hit a game-ending home run in the ninth and Cincinnati handed Los Angeles its season-high fourth straight loss.

De La Cruz hit an 0-1 fastball from Noah Syndergaard in the first inning that left the bat at 114.8 mph and landed into the last rows of the right-field stands at Great American Ball Park. The two-run shot tied it a 2.

A day after making his big league debut, the 21-year-old switch-hitter tripled on a curveball in the third as part of a 2-for-4 night, a drive that went to the wall in right-center on four hops. He reached third in 10.83 seconds, the fastest time in the major leagues this season, according to Statcast.

Cincinnati overcame a 6-2 deficit in a four-run third on Jonathan India's sacrifice fly, Spencer Steer's RBI single and Tyler Stephenson's two-run homer.

TJ Hopkins reached on an infield single in the ninth and Benson homered off Evan Phillips (1-2), giving Cincinnati its second straight walk-off win and a three-game winning streak. Alexis Diaz (2-1) struck out two in a perfect ninth.



AP
Miami Marlins' Luis Arraez, left, looks toward the stands as he listens to first base coach Jon Jay (11) following a base hit against the Kansas City Royals during the third inning of a baseball game Wednesday, June 7, 2023, in Miami.

CARDINALS 1, RANGERS 0

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Alec Burleson pulled a first-pitch homer to right field in the eighth inning and St. Louis beat Texas, ending Rangers infielder Marcus Semien's hitting streak at 25 games.

Semien was 0 for 4 to stop the longest streak in the major leagues this season and the longest of his career. The streak tied for the second longest in club history, behind Gabe Kapler's 28-game in 2000.

St. Louis also snapped a five-game losing streak and ended the surging Rangers' five-game winning streak.

Jordan Hicks (1-3) pitched a scoreless seventh inning for the victory, and Ryan Helsley finished for his seventh save in 11 attempts. Jon Gray (6-2) pitched the second complete game of his career in a losing effort.

RAYS 2, TWINS 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Randy Arozarena homered leading off ninth inning to lift major league-best Tampa Bay past AL Central-leading Minnesota.

After Minnesota tied it in the top of the inning, Arozarena sent an 0-1 pitch from Jhoan Duran (1-2) to the opposite field into the stands in right-center field.

Jason Adam (1-2) blew his fourth save opportunity in 13 chances when the Twins rallied in the ninth.

Adam hit Donovan Solano with one out and walked Max Kepler after pinch-runner Michael A. Taylor stole second. Taylor then swiped third before Royce Lewis tied it with an RBI single.

Minnesota loaded the bases when Will Castro was hit by a pinch, but third baseman Isaac Paredes started a nifty double play with a tumbling throw to second on Ryan Jeffers' grounder.

Paredes also homered, and six Rays pitchers combined on a three-hitter.

DIAMONDBACKS 6, NATIONALS 2

WASHINGTON (AP)—Zach Davies earned his first victory in more than a year, Corbin Carroll homered and NL West-leading Arizona beat Washington.

The surprising Diamondbacks have won eight of 10, lead the National League with 37 victories and hold a two-game advantage over the Los Angeles Dodgers in the division.

Davies (1-1) had not won since May 13, 2022, going 24 starts without one. But the 30-year-old right-hander was largely in control against the struggling Nationals, allowing only three runners to get into scoring position over 6 2/3 innings. He struck out eight.

Rookie star Carroll was 4 for 5 with his 11th homer, two RBIs and 18th stolen base.

Former Arizona pitcher Patrick Corbin (4-6) was the loser. The Nationals have lost four in a row and seven of nine to fall to a season-high 11 games under .500.

ATHLETICS 9, PIRATES 5

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Oakland won back-to-back games for just the third time season as Ryan Noda homered and reached base four times against Pittsburgh.

Oakland's first seven batters reached against Roansy Contreras (3-5). All seven scored to give Oakland its second road victory in two days following a 15-game slide away from home.

Seth Brown had three hits to help the A's match their season high with 17. Jace Peterson followed up a five-hit night with two more hits, including a two-run double that helped break things open in the first.

Hogan Harris (1-0) worked five innings to pick up his first major league victory after making a handful of appearances in relief. The 26-year-old allowed three runs on four hits with three walks and two strikeouts as an Oakland starter won for just the fourth time this season. Trevor May got two outs for his first save this season.

Rodolfo Castro homered and drove in three runs for Pittsburgh, which followed up a three-game sweep of NL Central rival St. Louis by becoming just the third team this season to lose a series to the major league-worst A's, who at 14-50 are on pace to finish 35-127.

BRAVES 7, METS 5

ATLANTA (AP)—Michael Harris II hit a two-run, tie-breaking homer off Adam Ottavino in the eighth inning and Atlanta rallied to beat New York for its fourth straight victory.

The third-place Mets wasted a three-run lead for the second straight night. They have lost five straight for the first time since 2021 and, at 30-32, dropped 7 1/2 games behind Atlanta in the NL East.

New York slugger Pete Alonso was hit on the left wrist by a 96 mph fastball from Charlie Morton in the first inning. The Mets said Alonso, who leads the major leagues with 22 homers, has a bruise and will get a CT scan on Thursday.

Mets co-ace Max Scherzer gave up five runs and 11 hits, one shy of his career high, in 5 2/3 innings.

Nick Anderson (4-0) pitched a one-hit eighth and A.J. Minter got three straight out for his eighth save in 11 chances. Brooks Raley took the loss.

PADRES 10, MARINERS 3

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Juan Soto had a career-high five

hits with four RBIs, Gary Sánchez hit his fourth home in nine games since joining San Diego to help the Padres rout Seattle.

Soto had four singles and a double, raising his average to .265 with 10 homers and 31 RBIs as the Padres tied their season high with 17 hits. Soto had an RBI single in the fourth, a two-run single in the three-run fifth and an RBI double that boosted the lead to 10-0 in the seventh. Every San Diego starter except Trint Grisham had a hit.

Matt Carpenter put San Diego ahead with a run-scoring single in the second, giving him 26 RBIs, and Sánchez hit a three-run homer in the third off George Kirby (5-5).

Michael Wacha (6-2) allowed two hits in six scoreless innings.

BREWERS 10, ORIOLES 2

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Joey Wiemer homered twice, Willy Adames also went deep in his return from the concussion list and Corbin Burnes pitched eight shutout innings in Milwaukee's victory over Baltimore.

Wiemer went 4 for 4 with a pair of two-run shots, a double and a career-high five RBIs. During an eight-game hitting streak, Wiemer has gone 13 of 27 to improve his batting average from .195 to .231.

Adames played his first game since May 26, when he got hit in the head by a line drive from teammate Brian Anderson while standing behind the railing on the dugout steps.

Burnes (5-4) struck out nine while allowing two hits and no walks. Dean Kremer (6-3) was the loser.

ANGELS 6, CUBS 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Mike Trout homered, Mickey Moniak had a three-run double and Luis Rengifo hit a tying homer and a tiebreaking RBI single in Los Angeles' victory over Chicago.

Trout and Moniak also made stellar defensive plays for the Halos, who are on their first three-game winning streak in two weeks after taking the first two games from the Cubs to open their homestand.

Hard-throwing reliever Ben Joyce (1-0) earned his first major league victory for the Angels with an eventful sixth inning. The 6-foot-5 right-hander threw 20 of his 27 pitches faster than 100 mph, but walked the bases loaded before escaping on Trey Mancini's groundout.

Jameson Taillon (1-4) was the loser.

GUARDIANS 5, RED SOX 3

CLEVELAND (AP)—Amed Rosario and Josh Naylor each had three hits and an RBI, Josh Bell drove in a run for the sixth consecutive game and Cleveland beat Boston.

Rosario singled twice against Kutter Crawford (1-3), then had an RBI double off Justin Garza as the Guardians scored two runs in both the fourth and fifth innings to erase a 2-1 deficit.

Bell drove in a pair to give him eight RBIs during the streak that began May 28. Naylor had two singles and a double for Cleveland, which has split the first two games of the series.

Rookie Tanner Bibee (2-1) pitched five innings, allowing one earned, for his first victory at Progressive Field. Emmanuel Clase worked a hitless ninth for his MLB-best 20th save.

GIANTS 5, ROCKIES 4

DENVER (AP)—Austin Slater had a pinch-hit RBI single in a three-run seventh inning and drove in another run in a two-run eighth to help San Francisco beat Colorado after being held hitless into the sixth inning.

Taylor Rogers (2-2) picked up the win with a scoreless inning of relief, and Camilo Doval got three outs for his 15th save.

Nolan Jones hit a solo homer for the Rockies, who build a four-run lead through six innings and yet still lost their 10th straight to the Giants.

Colorado rookie Connor Seabold didn't allow a hit until LaMonte Wade Jr. singled cleanly to left field with one out in the sixth. The 27-year-old right-hander struck out four and walked two, but didn't figure in the decision.

Justin Lawrence (2-3) took the loss.

BLUE JAYS 3, ASTROS 2

TORONTO (AP)—Pinch-hitter Alejandro Kirk singled in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning, Bo Bichette and Brandon Belt hit solo home runs and Toronto beat Houston.

Chris Bassitt (7-4) gave up two runs and four hits with five strikeouts and no walks over eight innings in winning consecutive starts. Jordan Romano closed for his 16th save in 19 chances for the Blue Jays. They have won nine of 12.

The game was played under a closed roof at Rogers Centre due to air quality concerns due to wildfires.

Hector Neris (3-2) was the loser.

Gauff is 0-7 vs No. 1 Iga Swiatek after losing in quarterfinals



P A R I S (AP)—This felt like a game Coco Gauff simply needed to claim if she intended to finally win a set, let alone a match, against No. 1 Iga Swiatek.

With shouts of “Go, Coco!” and “Allez, Coco!” emanating from the Court Philippe Chatrier stands, Gauff frittered away two break points as Swiatek served at 1-all. Then, at deuce, came the most memorable moment of Wednesday afternoon — and, while Gauff won the point, it soon would be Swiatek who seized complete control of this French Open quarterfinal that was a rematch of last year’s final.

During a 14-stroke exchange, both women made their way to the net, and Gauff directed a swinging backhand volley right at Swiatek. The ball struck Swiatek’s right leg, and she tumbled back onto the red clay, leaving rust remnants on her white dress and arm. That set up a third break chance for Gauff, but the 19-year-old American again failed to convert, and while it soon was 2-all, Swiatek pulled away from there to a 6-4, 6-2 victory.

“I didn’t try to hit her. I was just trying to hit the ball hard in the middle of the court, and it happened to hit her, obviously. I apologized after, but I think

she knows that’s part of the game. If you hit a bad ball and you decide to run to the net, there’s always a risk that you get hit — and there’s always the risk that the person might miss, trying to avoid you,” Gauff said. “If I was in her position, I wouldn’t be mad at me, either, because she ran forward. I think when I said sorry, she shook her head, and we had a mutual understanding that that was the only shot I really had.”

When a reporter asked Swiatek whether it’s unusual to get directly hit like that, she agreed with the premise. She also said she couldn’t be sure whether Gauff had another option.

“But I know Coco is a nice person, and she wouldn’t mean it,” said Swiatek, a 22-year-old from Poland who is seeking a third title at Roland Garros and fourth Grand Slam trophy overall. “Nothing personal. It happens.”

She improved to 7-0 against No. 6 Gauff and has won all 14 sets they’ve played against each other; that includes a 6-1, 6-3 victory for the 2022 champion in Paris.

“Obviously,” Gauff remarked, “you lose to someone seven times, you feel crappy.”

On Thursday, Swiatek will meet No. 14 seed Beatriz Haddad Maia, the first woman from Brazil to reach a Grand Slam semifinal since Maria Bueno at the 1968 U.S. Open.



Poland’s Iga Swiatek gets back up on her feet after getting hit by a ball during an exchange close to the net with Coco Gauff of the U.S. during their quarterfinal match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

The other women’s matchup for a berth in Saturday’s title match will be No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka, who won the Australian Open in January, against unseeded Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic.

In the men’s quarterfinals, No. 22 Alexander Zverev beat Tomas Martin Etcheverry 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 to reach the French Open semifinals for the third consecutive year. At that stage in 2021, Zverev lost to

Stefanos Tsitsipas in five sets; in 2022, Zverev tore ligaments in his right ankle during a fall late in the second set against Rafael Nadal.

Zverev’s next opponent will be No. 4 Casper Ruud, who beat No. 6 Holger Rune 6-1, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 on Wednesday night. The other semifinal is No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz vs. No. 3 Novak Djokovic.

Last season, Ruud was the runner-up to Nadal in Paris

and to Alcaraz at the U.S. Open. Ruud topped Rune in a contentious quarterfinal at the French Open in 2022, but this one was notable for how one-sided it was for the first hour or so. Rune kept making mistake after mistake—seven double-faults and 30 unforced errors in all across the first two sets alone—and, while he straightened things out eventually, it was Ruud who regained control early in the fourth set.

Haddad Maia advanced by coming back for a 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-1 victory over No. 7 Ons Jabeur, a two-time major runner-up in 2022.

Haddad Maia is a 27-year-old left-hander who was given a 10-month suspension after failing a doping test in 2019. She arrived in Paris with a 7-11 record at majors, never winning so much as one second-round match, until this 5-0 run.

“One of my qualities,” Haddad Maia said, “is that I wait and I’m very patient and I never give up.”

Before even knowing she would face Swiatek, Gauff spoke about hoping for that

opportunity. She insisted she wanted another shot at Swiatek, who has topped the rankings for more than a year.

Gauff tried some new tactics, with a measure of success early, looping high-arching, high-bouncing shots, instead of her standard big hitting.

“I didn’t win, so it didn’t work, but I think on certain points it did,” Gauff said. “But, yeah, I have to figure something out.”

This one was even early, at 4-4 in the first set, before Swiatek edged ahead. First she held, then she broke at love, smacking a cross-court forehand to own that set, then raising her right fist and shaking it.

Swiatek’s heavy-topspin forehand is probably her best shot. That also happens to be Gauff’s weaker side. A glance at the stats demonstrated the disparity: Swiatek finished with a 12-1 advantage in forehand winners.

After dusting herself off when she got hit by the ball in the second set — “Sometimes being in clay, it feels like you’re just out there doing dirty work,” Swiatek would say later — she lifted her play.

And it was Gauff, wearing a bandage on her right knee after scraping it in her previous match, who began having trouble with shot selection and execution. By the end, Gauff had far more unforced errors, 23, than winners, 13.

Yet to drop a set in the tournament, Swiatek broke to go up 4-2 in the second with the help of a double-fault, and again in the last game with the help of another double-fault.

Gauff was told at her news conference that she didn’t seem quite as crestfallen as she appeared to be after a fourth-round loss at the Australian Open in January.

“I wouldn’t say I’m more at peace. To be honest, I’m still very frustrated, but I guess I’m trying not to show it as much,” Gauff said. “Yeah, I don’t want those pictures on the internet.”

UNRANKED

From Page 40

plays at the net, as it turned out to be his kryptonite—he made many errors and couldn’t get his returns over.

Cordon slowed down when the deficit was too big to bridge, and Cho won, 21-10, eliminating Cordon from the tournament.

After the game, Cho said in a brief interview that it felt nice beating the tourney’s top seed player. Cho said that he played

to Cordon’s weaknesses, which was the net game, and it paid off for him. He said he knew that Cordon’s strengths were smashing and slicing, and he tried to pull away from that as much as he could.

Upset is the theme of this tournament as the world’s former no. 1, South Korean Son Wan Ho, was defeated by Yang Yang in Round 64 of the first day of matches last Tuesday, 21-15, 10-21, 21-18.

As for team NMI, all singles players were eliminated

yesterday, as well as the doubles teams.

Yesterday, Daniel Macario and Paulo Quidato were defeated by Chinese-Taipei’s Lin Yu Chieh and Su Li Wei, 21-7, 21-2; Brian Lubao and Daniell Pablo lost to Nge Joo Jie and Johann Prajogo, 21-6, 21-9; Ian Lubao and Leonard Manuel were defeated by Chen Cheng Kuan and Chen Sheng Fa, 21-6, 21-5.

In Wednesday’s games, Nate Guerrero and Janelle Pangilinan lost to Lu Chen and Chen Yu-

Pei, 21-7, 21-9; Brian Lubao, who advanced to Day 2 via forfeit, lost to Yang Yang, 21-6, 21-2; and Daniel Macario, who won against Guam in Day 1, lost to Japan’s Yushi Tanaka, 21-4, 21-5.

The matches will continue today, from 1pm to 9pm. Semis matches on Saturday will be from 1pm to 9pm, while finals in the men’s and women’s singles and men’s, women’s, and mixed doubles are slated for Sunday, June 11, from 12pm to 5pm.

JAPANESE

From Page 40

Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and in countries in Europe.

“When I was young, I also had the experience of competing and winning the International Grade level several times. By winning these grade level tournaments, I gained confidence and continued to grow,” said Sonoda, who with Takeshi Kamura were ranked No.2 in the world in the men’s doubles in 2017. The Japanese was also part of the national team that won the 2014 Thomas Cup and 2017 Asia Mixed Team Championships, notched a silver medal in the 2018 World Championships, and was a runner-up (with Kamura) in the prestigious All

England Club in 2011.

Sonoda, who reached the quarterfinals of last year’s Olympics, is part of the coaching group of the Japanese team that brought 28 players for the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2023—the first of the two-leg International Challenge that Northern Marianas Badminton Association is hosting. As of yesterday afternoon, Japan has two contenders in the men’s singles in No. 6 seed Riku Hatano and No. 8 Koo Takahashi. In the women’s singles, Tomoka Miyazaki is in the quarterfinals, while two other Japanese female players are still in the fight for the final eight slots as of press time.

Seeing himself in the 170-plus players competing in the Crowne Plaza Northern Mari-

anas Open 2023 when he was still dreaming of playing in the Olympics, Sonoda has some words of encouragement to the participants of the ongoing tournament.

“From here, I want you to challenge higher grade competitions and aim for the Olympics,” Sonoda said.

Meanwhile, after the early exit of former world No. 1 and two-time Olympian Son Wan Ho of South Korea, No. 1 seed and four-time Olympian Kevin Cordon became the latest favorite to be booted out of the competition. Cordon was upset by Cho Geonyeop of South Korea in the men’s singles Round of 16 with the unranked player winning in three games, 23-21, 19-21, 21-10.

Games in the Crowne Plaza

Northern Marianas Open 2023 will continue this weekend, with the finals in the five events slated from 12nn to 5pm.

The Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2023 is sponsored by Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, TakeCare IT&E, D&Q, GPPC, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Fanter, Marianas Visitors Authority, *Marianas Variety*, Saipan Computer Services-Ideal Sign, Hong Ye Construction, Island Apparel Joeten Motors, Joeten Daidai Foundation, Traders Insurance, Cup BAB, Pacifica Insurance, Bridge Capital, Shirley’s Coffee Shop, MARPAC, Northern Marianas Sports Association, Pepoy’s Restaurant, Sun Palace, Vickie Izuka, Saipan Ice & water Co., First Hawaiian Bank, and JET Holdings. (PR)

MARTECH

From Page 40

New Changming in the finals.

Basa and Fitial led Martech-OL’Aces with 17 points apiece, while Schmidt, who didn’t play in their semis loss against New Changming, and Lizama added 14 points each.

Deleon Guerrero was spectacular in defeat with 22 points, while Greg Sablan added 18 markers in the loss. Big man Arnold Arellano struggled all night long hounded by twin towers Fitial and Lizama and wound up with only 6 markers.

Martech-OL’Aces’ older brothers in OL’Aces took on Blue Eagle/Royal Pacific for the second finals slot in the masters division last night.

The finals of both the masters and open divisions will be played next week, according to SCLC caging commissioner Sonny Ebu.

Martech-OL’Aces 84 — P. Basa 17, Fitial 17, Schmidt 14, Lizama 14, Kabiriel 11, T. Basa 5, Atan 6, Libuw 2.

The Game 73 — Deleon Guerrero 22, G. Sablan 18, J. Sablan 9, Mizutani 9, Arellano 6, Natividad 5, Ong 4.

Scoring by quarters: 24-20, 44-34, 67-51, 84-73.

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Blue Jays upset the No. 2-seeded team in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League as they defeated them by one run, 6-5 Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Baseball Field.

The Falcons penetrated the defenses of the Blue Jays first and scored a run in the first inning via an RBI single by Giovanni Mira.

The Blue Jays then reciprocated and doubled it by scoring two runs in the next inning as Frankie Norita hit a single, stole second base, and was brought home on Travis Malwebug's base hit.

Malwebug then also stole second base and was put into scoring position for Russel Hocog who got on base due to a Falcon's fielding error on his pop fly to right field, which al-

Blue Jays upset No. 2 Falcons, 6-5



The Blue Jays' Jobe Reyes stands at the ready in the batter's box during their game against the Falcons Wednesday night in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

LEIGH GASES

lowed him to reach third base.

Before the Blue Jays could drive in any more runs, Falcons pitcher Zack Blas quickly put three outs, but it was now a 2-1 game in favor of the Blue Jays.

Both teams went scoreless in the next couple of innings until the Falcons caught a break and Jordan Suel found an opening for an RBI single. The next batter had a free pass to home after a wild pitch by the Blue Jays pitcher, Kevin Kapileo.

The Blue Jays returned the favor and also brought in two runs in the fifth inning for still a one run, 4-3 lead. James Salalila scored on a triple by Alden Ngeskebei before their teammates were struck out.

The Falcons, however, struck back and equalized the game on a one run sixth inning. They added just one more run in the last inning and should've added more because the Blue Jays swooped in the last inning and scored two runs for the W.

Free basketball clinic tomorrow



MARK RABAGO

Guam Basketball Confederation and national coach E.J. Calvo conducted a successful basketball coaching clinic last April at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Sonics 670, Let's Move Marianas, the Division of Youth Services, and the CHCC Public Health Services Non-Communicable Disease Programs will be hosting a free basketball clinic tomorrow, June 10, from 8am to 11:30am at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

"Calling all basketball enthusiasts in the CNMI! Join us for an action-packed day of hoops, camaraderie, and useful coaching. Whether you're a beginner looking to learn the basics or a seasoned player aiming to take your skills to new heights, this clinic is made just for you," said a social media post from organizers.

The clinic, which will teach attendees how to dribble, pass, and shoot in basketball, will be led by Omar Ajoste.

The Sonics 670 head coach and basketball referee played for different basketball clubs

on Saipan including the Sonics, CK, and Laly 4 before becoming a coach and referee.

He added that his basketball journey wouldn't have been possible without the help of former Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president and former referee Abner Venus, who recently passed.

Ajoste said the basketball clinic will open with a Zumba session to warm-up participants of the three-hour event.

"This clinic is open to all ages and skill levels, so bring your friends, family, and fellow basketball enthusiasts along. See you at the basketball clinic," organizers added.

For more information on the free basketball clinic, call the CHCC Public Health Services Non-Communicable Disease Programs at (670) 236-8711. *(Mark Rabago)*



MARK RABAGO

Guam Basketball Confederation and national coach E.J. Calvo talks to participants of the basketball coaching clinic.

Run Saipan's Grotto 10K '23 this Saturday

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the inaugural Run Saipan Grotto 10K pose for a photo. The 2nd Grotto 10K is set for tomorrow, Saturday, June 11 at 6am.



By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Run Saipan's very own 10K race—the 2nd Annual Grotto 10K '23—is set for tomorrow, Saturday, June 11 at 6am.

The check in time is between 5am to 5:45am, with a race brief at 5:45am.

The course is from the Grotto in an out and back semi-flat course. Water stations will

be provided at the start point, Bird Island Lookout, and the turn around point, just past the Kalabera Cave.

Age divisions from the open to 65 and older will be awarded this year.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. said this time around for their participant shirts, they wanted to do something different.

"It's a longer distance so we wanted to do a long sleeve but not a regular vanilla style.

Since we know people like to swim we designed a dry fit long sleeve hoodie for casual beach attire as well as swimming. It could be used for running. I've used it but probably not anything longer than an hour's duration."

About the race, he said "The Grotto 10K will be better this year. Last year we didn't have enough medals to do age divisions awards so this year we brought in enough to pull the age division bracket as well

as [an] online timing system. Special shout out to IT&E for helping us get their wireless service down up in the north for this event. This will start our six-month countdown to our half marathon in December again with Atkins Kroll."

Last year, the winner of the women's division and overall was Dr. Lily Muldoon, who clocked in at 44:57; and the winner of the men's division was Sildrey Veloria with a time of 45:05.



Jokic, Murray have triple-doubles, Nuggets beat Heat for 2-1 lead.

PAGE 36

Saipan Tribune Sports

Blue Jays upset No. 2 Falcons, 6-5.

PAGE 39



40 FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Unranked Cho stuns No. 1 Kevin Cordon



LEIGH GASES
South Korea's Geonyeop Cho, right, reaches for a return from opponent Kevin Cordon in the second set of their Round 16 match of the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2023 yesterday afternoon at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Top seed Kevin Cordon was eliminated in Round 16 of the first 2024 Paris Olympics qualifier in the CNMI after unranked South Korean Geonyeop Cho pulled off the three-set upset victory.

The Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2023 continued yesterday afternoon as Cordon and Cho went at it in a much-anticipated match in the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Cordon, after handily defeating Guam's Allen Zeng on Wednesday, found his match as he took on Cho. Cordon, the favorite to advance, held

steady in the first few points, gaining a 7-3 advantage over Cho. However, Cho breathed down Cordon's neck the whole set, as points went back and forth throughout the match, 9-9, then 15-15, 17-17, 19-19, and 20-20.

Cho pulled risky maneuvers as he didn't reach for a couple of Cordon's returns, but was

rewarded as they were all out of bounds, handing the first set to Cho, 21-23.

It was all or nothing for Cordon in the second set and he wasn't willing to go down without winning a match, so he aggressively pushed kills that Cho could not get to in time. Cordon eventually pulled away with the redemption set by the skin of his teeth, 21-19.

Fatigue set in for 36-year-old Cordon as 26-year-old Cho's strong returns were unwavering. Cordon came back from a 1-4 deficit early on, but Cho held him back with well-placed kills near the outside lines that Cordon could not get to.

Cordon didn't help his cause when it came down to soft-

See UNRANKED on Page 38

Japanese badminton player shares journey to Olympics

When Japanese coach Keigo Sonoda stepped inside the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium to facilitate the training sessions of his players that are currently competing in the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open, he could not help but look back at this journey to becoming an Olympian.

Sonoda, who competed in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games last year, used to be a regular participant in Badminton World Federation's International Challenge, a Grade 3 event that awards points to players wishing to play in the Olympics. The 32-year-old played in Hong

See JAPANESE on Page 38



Martech-Ol'Aces advances to finals after routing The Game



MARK RABAGO
Martech-Ol'Aces' Douglass "Spyder" Schmidt drives against The Game's Arnold Arellano in their open division semis game in the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Civic Center Basketball Court.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Martech-Ol'Aces gets another crack at New Changming Market after booking the last finals berth in the open division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League following its 87-73 rout of The Game last Wednesday night at the Civic Center Basketball Court.

New Changming last Mon-

day advanced to the championship after holding on against a fiery fourth-quarter rally by Martech-Ol'Aces, 80-76.

Martech-Ol'Aces gave The Game a steady diet of its inside-outside game and took a 24-20 lead after the first quarter.

Then using its dreaded full-court press in the second, Martech-Ol'Aces ballooned their lead to 44-34, as Douglas "Spyder" Schmidt got into the passing lane and stole the ball several times before converting them to uncontested fast-

break points.

Already short on players, The Game also lost forward D.J. Ong to another dislocated shoulder in the first half, making its uphill climb even harder for the rest of the game.

Martech-Ol'Aces continued their attack against The Game by pounding it to Kelvin Fitial and Jack Lizama in the third and with the two centers dominating inside they entered the playoff period with a 67-51 advantage.

The Game started the fourth and final quarter with a sense

of urgency and led by Greg Deleon Guerrero rallied and cut their deficit to just 68-75 with little over five minutes to go in the ballgame.

Martech-Ol'Aces, however, would reply emphatically going on a 16-6 run starting with a booming triple by Preston Basa. Fitial and Aiferson Atan also made quick fastbreak layups to make it 84-71, forcing The Game to sue for time with 2:04 left in the contest.

The Game scored 2 more points and Martech-Ol'Aces made the sporting move not to attempt a shot in the dying seconds as they prepare to face

See MARTECH on Page 38